Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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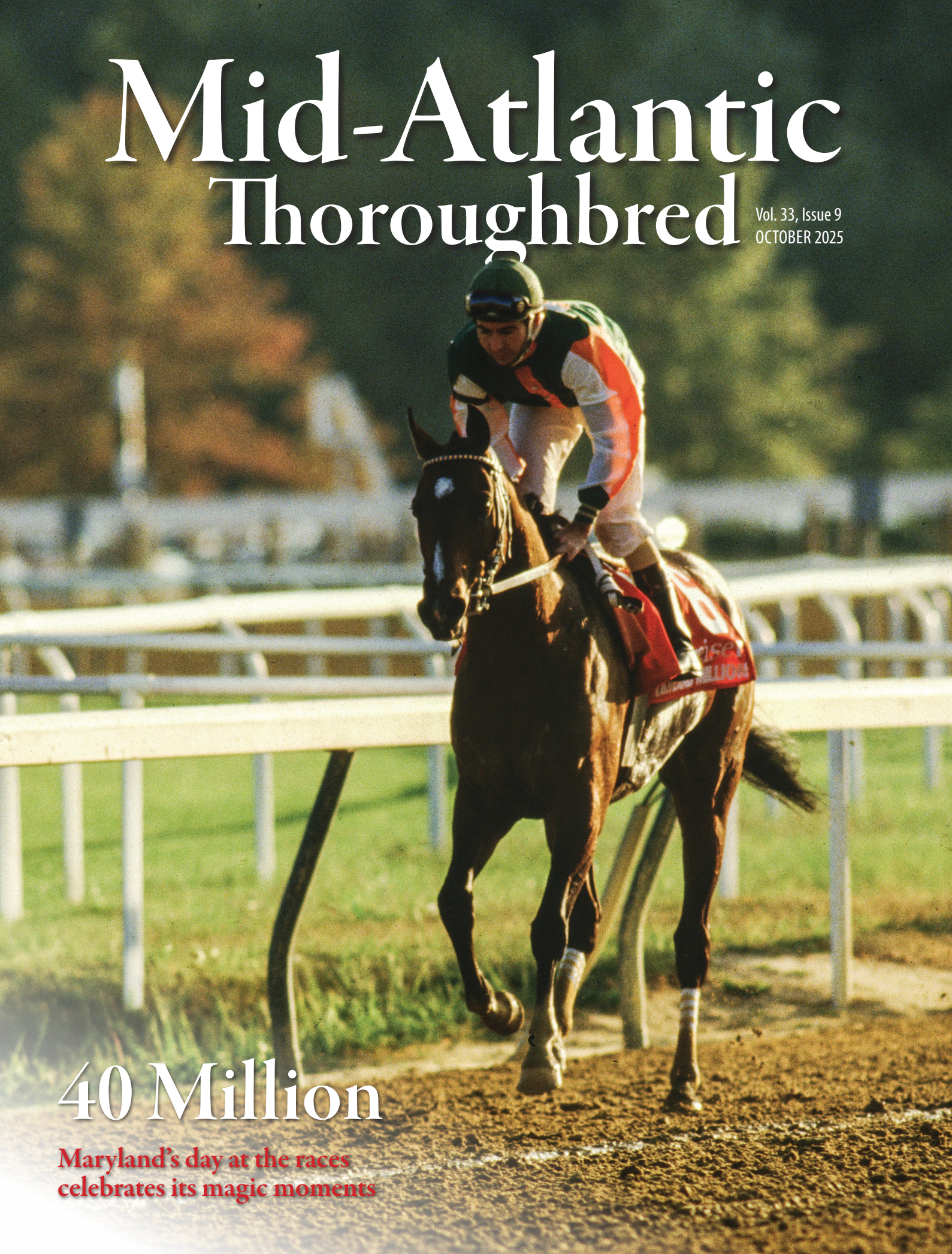
OCTOBER 2025



40 Million

Maryland's day at the races celebrates its magic moments

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Amie's Symphony (left), a Maryland-bred purchased by Country Life for $155,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling sale, broke her maiden in an $87,500 Colonial Downs MSW on Aug. 6 and came right back on Sept. 1 to win a $90,000 allowance at Colonial, bringing her earnings to $154,695.

Queen of Wands (top right), a Country Life and Fifteen Royals LLC Breeding Partnership filly, finishes a strong second in an $87,500 Colonial Downs MSW on Aug. 16.

MAGIC WALLET (bottom right), foaled at Country Life in 2023 and sired by farm stallion Divining Rod, scores in $75,000 Dover Stakes at Delaware Park on Aug. 14. Undefeated in his first 2 starts, Magic Wallet broke his maiden in a $70,000 MSW at Colonial on July 25.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Special moments help Maryland Million turn 40

Founded in 1986, the Jim McKay Maryland Million hosts its 40th running this month. Favorite moments from writers, readers and contributors capture the spirt of an event that changed Thoroughbred racing. Edited by Vinnie Perrone. Page 24

Charles Town: Barbadian Runner gets rich win

Scott Groh, Henry Walters and Forest Boyce ride high with Maryland-bred Barbadian Runner's win in $500,000 Robert Hilton Memorial on Charles Town Classic night. By Joe Clancy. Page 42

Makeover turns 10, continues big impact

Hatched in Maryland at Pimlico Race Course, the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover continues to make an impact on the industry. By Kristen Kovatch Bentley. Page 46

Abrupt end won't change success of Conner's career

Tyler Conner wanted to be anything but a jockey, and pursued motorcycle racing with a passion – until he became a jockey. His 1,272-win career ended with an injury at Colonial Downs in July. By Paul Halloran. Page 50

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On our cover: Northern Dancer's Herat and Jerry Bailey return after winning the inaugural Maryland Million Classic in 1986.

Photo from Neena Ewing Collection / Maryland Horse Library.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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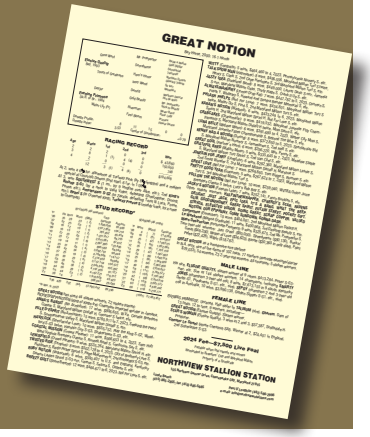
GREAT NOTION

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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OCT. 31 – NOV. 1

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SCAN TO NOMINATE

Post Time

STRETCH BATTLE. The ponies – and the parents – jockey for position in a leadline race at Timonium over the summer.
Jim McCue

1
U.S. PONY RA

40

Jim McKay

Maryland Million Day

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The Mill

Say It Again

"We beat a Barbadian with a Barbadian."
Owner Scott Groh, whose horse Barbadian Runner defeated Neoequos from the barn of trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. (a native of Barbados) in the Robert Hilton Memorial at Charles Town Aug. 22

"I said to Mike Hankin that year, 'He's the best looking yearling on the farm, he can't lose the yearling show.' And what happens? One of our other horses beat him. I told Mike the judge didn't know what he was talking about."
Dark Hollow Farm's David Hayden, on Maryland-bred Mission North, now a stakes winner over jumps and on the flat

"She loved being in the spotlight, well maybe not the spotlight, but she really enjoyed the horses and the sport. She would be the first person I talked to at 5:30 in the morning. They were just conversations about the horses, she loved that."
Brooks Adams, on former boss Betty Moran who bred Crowned, the dam of top 3-year-old Sovereignty

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Names of the Month

Compiled by Barrie Reightler

Jigger. Warwick Stable's 2-year-old Maryland-bred colt, a maiden win at Colonial Downs Sept. 10, is by Bourbon Courage.

Bailout Billy. The Pennsylvania-bred filly, a winner at Parx Racing Sept. 8, is out of Billygets Arrested. Billy sounds like trouble.

Howler. Isabelle de Tomaso's homebred 3-year-old filly, a winner at Monmouth Park in May and third in the Eleven North Handicap in August, is by Irish War Cry.

Grand Opening. WWCD's New York-bred gelding out of Ribbon Cutter won at Colonial Downs Sept. 5 for trainer Robbie Bailes. For hunch players, the race was called the Molly's Curtain Call Cup.

Claim to Fame

Scott Groh, who owns stakes-winning Maryland-bred Barbadian Runner, didn't exactly start out as a success in racing.

"In the early 1980s, four of us went to a Phillies game against Baltimore Orioles and we came up with this great idea to take money out of the bank, go to Penn National and claim a horse. That's what we did. We picked out a horse in a $2,500 race. We got our licenses, did all the paperwork and put in the claim. Then they told us we couldn't claim the horse because we didn't realize you had to pay sales tax. We only had enough in the account for the claiming price. We went back to the drawing board, put more money in the account and claimed a horse a couple weeks later."

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Jim McKay

Maryland Million Day

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*This event proudly supports the **Maryland Horse Foundation**, dedicated to education and advancement in Maryland's equine industry, and **Saddle Up Scholars**, which empowers underserved youth through equestrian-based academic support.*

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Country Road Trip

KAT TURNBULL / ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

The last time Forest Boyce rode a race at Charles Town racetrack in West Virginia, things didn't exactly go according to plan. Oh, she won and all, but let's just say it wasn't pretty.

"It was the first race I ever rode," she said of a Nov. 18, 2006, race restricted to amateur jockeys. "I was not fit and couldn't pull up. I did a victory lap after the race. The replay is the funniest thing you've ever seen."

Good luck finding that on YouTube, but for the record Boyce and Maybe Satisfied rallied from far back early to win the $4,000 claimer by three-quarters of a length for owner/trainer Lawrence Robb. As Boyce put it, track officials said, "Don't come back," afterward.

After piling up 1,080 additional wins (and counting) while building a career in the Mid-Atlantic, Boyce figured the ban had been lifted and returned to ride Barbadian Runner in the $500,000 Robert Hilton Memorial Stakes on the Charles Town Classic undercard Aug. 22.

And remained undefeated.

Sent off at 9-1 in a field of eight that included Kentucky Derby-G1 starter Owen Almighty, Barbadian Runner rated in seventh early, advanced along the rail on the backstretch, swung out in the stretch, hit high gear at the furlong pole and won by 2½ lengths for Scott Groh's AJ Will Win Stable and trainer Henry Walters.

"I pretty much rode the same race I did the first day, saved ground and made one run," Boyce said with a laugh. The Maryland-bred won with his ears pricked and never felt Boyce's whip. After pulling up – on the backside – she patted him on the shoulder, rubbed his neck and gave him a kiss for good measure.

We checked, she can come back any time.

– Joe Clancy

Go Figure

0 Three-time winners of the Charles Town Classic-G2 after Skippylongstocking finished eighth while seeking his third win in the stakes.

4 Two-time winners of the Charles Town Classic – Researcher (2009-10), Imperative (2014, 2017), Art Collector (2021-22) and Skippylongstocking (2023-24).

253 Wins by Jamie Ness (through Sept. 14), tops among trainers in the country this year. Based in the Mid-Atlantic, he finished second to Steve Asmussen (not far behind with 224 this year) in 2023 and 2024.

6 Stakes won by trainer Mike Trombetta in August, including two with Maryland-bred juvenile filly Just Philtored.

The Convertible Horse

There is no Eclipse Award for most versatile horse in training, but Maryland-bred Mission North would be an easy 2025 choice. The 4-year-old opened the year with a maiden hurdle win at Virginia meet Old Dominion in April, then won the restricted Speedy Smithwick Stakes over hurdles at Great Meadow, also in Virginia, in May.

Trainer Jack Fisher and owner/breeder Northwoods Stable skipped the summer jump-racing schedule at Saratoga Race Course in favor of something different. Mission North responded by winning a Maryland-bred allowance at Laurel Park May 25 – getting a mile on the turf in 1:34.82. Mission North stepped up a level at Colonial Downs, and finished third in an optional claimer going 1⅛ miles on the turf July 11. Five weeks later, he won the $125,000 Find Stakes at Colonial Aug. 16. Facing graded stakes winner Gigante, stakes winner Fulmineo, four-time winner Hardspun Reason and the stakes-placed Hunter Joe in a field of Maryland/Virginia-bred or -sired runners, Mission North more than held his own. The son of Noble Mission (GB) assumed command when Hunter Joe took an awkward step and was pulled up entering the far turn, and held off favorite Gigante by three-quarters of a length in a quick 1:40.67 for 1⅛ miles.

DOUGLAS LEES

COADY MEDIA

Maryland-bred Mission North showed off his versatility with wins in the Speedy Smithwick Memorial hurdle stakes at Great Meadow in May and the Find Stakes at Colonial Downs in August.

Mission North lost three starts for trainer Mike Trombetta as a 2-year-old in 2023, and was moved to Fisher last year. Boyce remembers her first experience with the bay gelding out of the Exchange Rate mare Dream Exchange.

"He's the only horse I've ever been scared on," she said. "The first time he ran for Jack he had a snaffle on and was stretching out. In the paddock they said he needed blinkers and all they had was full-cup blinkers. My instructions were to cover him up. I went to cover him up and he started to run off straight into the horses in front of him."

The replay shows just that as Mission North breaks a step slow from the outside, angles inside and then nearly plows into the back of horses going into the first turn. Rank but competitive, he dragged Boyce to second while inside horses on the backstretch and final turn and fought on through the stretch before settling for fifth.

Boyce got off and stayed positive.

"This thing's all right," she told Fisher. "I think he can win a stakes. You don't need him to be a jumper yet."

Without blinkers, Mission North finished third in a turf maiden on last year's Black-Eyed Susan-G2 undercard at Pimlico in May and won at Laurel in June. He won again in October to close his 3-year-old campaign, all the while learning to jump at Fisher's farm in Butler, Md.

This year, he's won races at a mile and 2½ miles. His hurdle stakes win, restricted to 4-year-olds, came over just two opponents so nobody's calling him a future champion just yet, but the dual-purpose success did warrant some research.

In 1971, Wustenchef (Ger) alternated jump and flat stakes scores – twice. At Delaware Park, he won the Indian River Hurdle Handicap June 11 and the Sussex Turf Handicap July 4. Next came a win in Aqueduct's Meadowbrook Hurdle Stakes July 22 and then a victory in Belmont Park's Brighton Beach Handicap on the turf Sept. 8.

"More horses could do it," said Boyce, who won an Aug. 31 maiden turf race at Kentucky Downs aboard the Fisher-trained The Jackal, whose previous start was a maiden hurdle win at Colonial Downs Aug. 7. "The jumping keeps them fresh. Mix it up for them. It keeps them happy. Those two horses love it." *– Joe Clancy*

Milestones

Represented

By his first winners, freshman sire Engage who stands at Northview Stallion Station in Maryland. Through Sept. 14, four members of his first crop had won – Vita Mia at Gulfstream Park Sept. 6, Share Success at Laurel Park Sept. 5, Rockstar Casanova at Finger Lakes Sept. 1 and La Resolana at Monmouth Park Aug. 24. The quartet of winners came from 18 runners and 39 named foals. A son of Into Mischief, Engage won the Futurity-G3 as a 2-year-old and the Phoenix-G2 as a 4-year-old to highlight a racing career with five wins and $802,780 earned before retiring in 2021 and joining the Northview roster for the 2022 season. He stood for $5,000 in 2025.

• Pennsylvania stallion Capo Kane, who stands at Bonner Hill Farms in Littlestown, was also represented by his first winner – Capos Sugar Kane at Delaware Park Aug. 14. She was one of three starters from 14 named foals through Sept. 14 for the son of Street Sense, who stood for $2,500 in 2025.

Honored

Several regional breeders, at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's national awards program in Kentucky Sept. 6. Among the winners were state breeders of the year Larry Johnson (Maryland), Vincent Annarella (New Jersey), Nancy Shuford (North Carolina), the Warrior's Reward partners Donny Brown and Tom McClay (Pennsylvania), Franklin "Goree" Smith Jr. (South Carolina) and Audley Farm Equine (Virginia). Marylander

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Jim McKay

Maryland Million Day

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Milestones

TAMMIE J. MONACO

Racing for owner/breeder Bonita Farm and trainer Kevin Boniface, Maryland-bred Fightnomoreforever (gray) leads everyone home in a starter allowance at Fair Hill, Md., Aug. 30. The Alliance gelding was one of two winners on the day for jockey Taylor Kingsley.

Alan Foreman, founder of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, received the Dr. J. David Richardson TOBA Industry Service Award.

Won

His first meet riding title, apprentice Yedsit Hazlewood, at Timonium this summer. Hazlewood won 12 races from 36 mounts at the Maryland State Fair meet. From Panama, Hazlewood rode his first races at Laurel Park this spring and won his first two with a double April 4. His Timonium success included three-win days Aug. 23, Aug. 30 and Sept. 1. The 12 wins were four more than Carlos Lopez and Arnaldo Bocachica. Anthony Farrior won the training title at Timonium with nine wins, three more than Jose Corrales and Hugh McMahon. The six wins by McMahon came from just 13 starts. Discreet Ops won the meet's only stakes, the $75,000 Shine Again, for owner Chip Reed and trainer Ben Feliciano Jr. Genieinabridle and Kerness won two races each at the seven-day meet.

Hosted

Its first racing since 2019, the Fair Hill, Md., turf course, with a card of six races Saturday, Aug. 30. Opened in 1934 by owner/breeder and racetrack designer William duPont Jr., the course hosted steeplechase races throughout a long history and became part of a 5,600-acre Maryland Department of Natural Resources property in 1975. Racing was suspended while the course was rebuilt in 2020 and 2021, and returned this year after horses from the adjacent Fair Hill Training Center used the course for training this spring and summer. Called the Races at Fair Hill and presented by sponsor Brown Advisory, the card consisted of six flat races, with walk-up starts and steeplechase weights, at 1⅝ miles and total purses of $150,000. Organized by the Sport and Entertainment Corporation of Maryland, which also puts on the Maryland 5-Star international three-day event at the property, the August races were looked at as a first step toward additional racing and a full steeplechase meet in 2026 and beyond.

Remained

Undefeated at Laurel Park with a 10th victory, 2024 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Post Time, when he captured the Polynesian Stakes Sept. 7. Trained by Brittany Russell for Hillwood Stable, the 5-year-old son of Frosted faced just two opponents and won by 17 lengths over a muddy track for jockey Sheldon Russell. The win was his 12th from 20 lifetime starts and pushed his earnings to $1,431,100. Bred by Tom, Chris and Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III, Post Time finished sixth in the Whitney-G1 at Saratoga in August – the only worse-than-third finish of his career. Including a victory at Pimlico in 2023, he has never lost in 11 starts in his home state.

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Maryland

Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners

August 5 – September 8

Maryland-bred

BARBADIAN RUNNER, dk.b./br.g., 2022, Barbados—Quiet Run, by Northern Afleet. B-Shamrock Farm; O-AJ Will Win Stables; T-Henry Walters. $500,000 Robert Hilton Memorial S, Charles Town, Aug. 22.

DAZZLING DAME, b.f., 2023, Girvin—Awesome Dama, by Corinthian. B-Maria M. Haire; O-Respect the Valleys; T-Brittany Russell. $100,000 Sorority S, Monmouth, Aug. 17.

FUTURE IS NOW, b.m., 2020, Great Notion—Past as Prelude, by Bernardini. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Estate of R. Larry Johnson; T-Mike Trombetta. $150,000 Smart and Fancy S, Saratoga, Aug. 15.

HOLLYWOOD WALK, b.m., 2020, 2019, Animal Kingdom—Walk of Stars, by Street Sense. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Estate of R. Larry Johnson; T-Mike. Trombetta. $150,000 Andy Guest S, Colonial, Aug. 9.

JUST PHILTORED, b.f., 2023, Great Notion—Slow and Steady, by Malibu Moon. B-ZWP Stable & Non Stop Stable; O-Red White & Blue Racing & London Reid Thoroughbreds; T-Mike Trombetta. $125,000 Dolley Madison S, Colonial, Aug. 23.

LIFELOVENLAUGHTER, b.m., 2020, Lemon Drop Kid—Too Foofoo for You, by Freud. B/O-The Elkstone Group (Stuart Grant); T-Mike Trombetta. $125,000 All Brandy S, Colonial, Aug. 16.

MAGIC WALLET, b.c., 2023, Divining Rod—In Dad's Wallet, by Medaglia d'Oro. B-William Bayne & Super C Racing; O-William Bayne Jr.; T-Claudio Gonzalez. $75,000 Dover S, Delaware, Aug. 14.

MISSION NORTH, b.g., 2021, Noble Mission (GB)—Dream Exchange, by Exchange Rate. B/O-Northwoods Stable; T-Jack Fisher. $125,000 Find S, Colonial, Aug. 16.

POST TIME, gr./ro.h., 2020, Frosted—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Milton Higgins III; O-Hillwood Stable; T-Brittany Russell. $100,000 Polynesian S, Laurel, Sept. 7.

SPLENDORA, dk.b./br.f., 2021, Audible—Miss Freeze, by Frost Giant. B-The Elkstone Group; O-By Talla Racing; T-Bob Baffert. $100,000 Tranquility Lake S, Del Mar, Sept. 1.

WALTER WLODARCZYK / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

New Jersey-bred star Book'em Danno returns after winning the Grade 1 Forego Stakes at Saratoga Aug. 23.

New Jersey-bred

BEL PENSIERO, b.m., 2020, Army Mule—Milaya, by Eskendereya. B-ARM Consulting; O-ARM Racing & Hudson Stable; T-Anthony Margotta Jr. $100,000 Eleven North H, Monmouth, Aug. 24.

BOOK'EM DANNO, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper. B-Greg Kilka & Bright View Farm; O-Atlantic Six Racing; T-Derek Ryan. $500,000 Forego S-G1, Saratoga, Aug. 23.

GREAT NAVIGATOR, dk.b./br.h., 2020, Sea Wizard—All Even, by Stephen Got Even. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $100,000 New Jersey Breeders H, Monmouth, Aug. 24.

RIDING PRETTY, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Jack Milton—High Renaissance, by Girolamo. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $125,000 Charles Hesse III H, Monmouth, Aug. 24.

Pennsylvania-bred

FORE HARP, b.g., 2018, Weigelia—Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico. B-St. Omers Farm; O-LC Racing, James Bonner & Robert Reid Jr.; T-Robert Reid Jr. $75,000 Marshall Jenney H, Penn National, Aug. 15.

FOXY JUNIOR, dk.b./br.m., 2021, Cuba—Foxy Drummer, by Flatter. B/O-Dianne Stern; T-Bernie Houghton. $100,000 Twixt S, Laurel, Sept. 6.

OHIO JOE, b.g., 2022, Jimmy Creed—Little B Rosson, by Bernstein. B-Howard Schaeffer Jr. & Scott Kemp; O-Bran Jam Stable & David Clark; T-Louis Linder Jr. $75,000 Crowd Pleaser S, Parx, Aug. 29.

WITTY, gr./ro.g., 2019, Great Notion—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. B/T-Elizabeth Merryman; O-Marc Detampel & Elizabeth Merryman. $150,000 Van Clief S, Colonial, Aug. 9.

Virginia-bred

DOUBTING THOMAS, b.c., 2023, Caravaggio—Allwewantforxmas, by Songandaprayer. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Estate of R. Larry Johnson; T-Mike Trombetta. $125,000 Jamestown S, Colonial, Aug. 23.

West Virginia-bred

DUNCAN IDAHO, dk.b./br.h., 2020, Fiber Sonde—Holy Pow Wow, by Indian Charlie. B-John McKee; O-David Raim; T-Jeff Runco. $40,000 Last Enchantment WVB Overnight S, Charles Town, Aug. 22.

PARTY TIME FOR ME, b.f., 2021, Weave It to Me—Party N the Palace, by Windsor Castle. B/O/T-Anthony Grigsby. $40,000 Autumn WVB Overnight S, Charles Town, Aug. 22.

TEACHINTHERELEASE, dk.b./br.g., 2020, Windsor Castle—Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork. B-John A. Casey; O-Robert Cole Jr.; T-Stephen Murdock. $75,000 Frank Gall Memorial S, Charles Town, Aug. 22.

THE SKY IS FALLING, dk.b./br.m., 2019, Cupid—Miss Henny Penny, by Half Ours. B-Catherine Jennings & Scott Mallory; O-David Raim; T-Jeff Runco. $75,000 Sadie Hawkins S, Charles Town, Aug. 22.

Chelsea Durand / Coglianese Photography

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Scandalous Love

MAGGIE KIMMETT

Scandalous Love and Kameryn Stockar compete at the Real Rider Cup in 2023.

"He really wants to be a lap dog. He will actually take naps laying with his head in my lap. The first time he did that, I felt like the most special person in the world. The fact that he trusts me that much is something I'll never take for granted."

That wasn't always the case. When Kameryn Stockar first met Scandalous Love (whom she re-christened "Regal") it was anything but love at first sight. Stockar was and is based at The Stables at Fox Crossing in Cochranville, Pa., where she trains with professional event riders Chris and Marty Armstrong. In 2015, Scandalous Love was sent to Marty Armstrong as a 5-year-old retired racehorse who was, shall we say, a problem child.

Bred in Maryland by Tom and Chris Bowman, the chestnut gelding is by 2004 Pennsylvania Derby-G2 winner Love of Money out of the winning Polish Numbers mare Double Your Luck. He was purchased as a yearling from the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December 2011 mixed sale by Harry Kassap from the consignment of the Bowmans' daughter Becky Davis.

Kassap sent the horse to trainer Tim Woolley, for whom he made 10 starts as a 4-year-old in 2014. He had one win, one second and two thirds, earning $12,597. His trainer remembers more than on-track achievements.

"He was just a flat run-off," Woolley said. "He would run through that rail [pointing to the inside rail of Fair Hill Training Center's main track] just like, blind. But he was a

nice horse, a really sweet horse, and she [Stockar] has done such a beautiful job with him."

That took awhile. Although fundamentally good-natured, Scandalous Love was at that point an angry horse who let it be known that a career on the racetrack was not in the cards. Marty Armstrong did his early reschooling work herself; Stockar recalls the process.

"She is really good with problem horses, and he had a reputation for being a really tricky horse. Tim told her when she picked him up to, 'Only ride him in the indoor with the doors closed.' He was really bad."

Stockar, who began taking dressage lessons in the second grade, moved to the Armstrongs' barn in middle school to pursue eventing. She was leasing an experienced schoolmaster to learn the ropes. The lease expired in 2018, and Marty suggested she try Scandalous Love. It was Stockar's first experience with an off-track Thoroughbred. . . and it nearly put her off them entirely.

"He was a bit too much for me initially. I wasn't really his biggest fan to begin with. I really didn't like riding him, but I liked who he was, which was why I stuck with him. It was a bit tough getting him over fences at first. But he ended up teaching me so much."

As the pair progressed, the horse's behavioral issues reoccurred, leading Stockar and the Armstrongs to have him examined by Dr. Celia Goodall.

"We took films of his back and that was when we found the closeness in his dorsal spine and that led us to a kissing-spine diagnosis," Stockard said. "There are plenty of ways to treat that. We were treating it with steroid injections for a while but he was still painful. So that was when we opted for surgery. We would do the injections every six months and that kept him comfortable for at least a year. But eventually we found they weren't lasting as long and the behavioral issues were returning, so that was when we started to explore other options."

In autumn 2020, Goodall recommended Stockar send Scandalous Love to New Bolton Center for surgery.

"He had the less invasive option; it was performed standing and they go in and cut the ligaments going up to the spine. He was out of work in a stall for three weeks, then lunging for three weeks and then back under saddle, so it wasn't super dramatic, and we would hand-walk him. He was a trooper though. We got him all the stall toys."

After getting to know Stockar during her horse's treatments and surgery, Goodall offered her a job when a veterinary technician was relocating out of the area. Stockar began working for Goodall three years ago, describing it as a "right place, right time" opportunity.

His physical and psychological issues resolved, Scandalous Love settled into life as an event horse, steadily rising up the ranks. They began at beginner novice and have now competed at the modified level, with 2022 the year Stockar considers their best. They qualified for the United States Eventing Association's American Eventing Championships at training level. They also compete frequently in the 3-foot-6 division in open jumpers.

Two years ago, a coworker mentioned she was participating in the Real Rider Cup and suggested Stockar might be interested.

"I thought it sounded like a really great cause. I'm a huge Thoroughbred fan so I was all in. It sounded like fun."

They finished fourth individually and were part of the winning team, representing Sports Medicine Associates of Chester County. They'll return to the competition this year when the 2025 event is held in conjunction with the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill Oct. 18.

While an event of that magnitude could cause concern for some, Stockar isn't stressing about how Scandalous Love will cope with the crowds and environment.

"I think we as riders get worried about things, but Thoroughbreds are exposed to so much as young horses. I think that gives them a head-start in their show horse career. They are used to all the noise and activity. My biggest surprise was taking Regal to his first show. He got off the trailer and was like 'OK, whatever.' He didn't care at all about all the commotion. When we go somewhere else or to a show, he gets in a zone. He's actually easier to ride."

Eleven years removed from his racing career, Scandalous Love is exactly what Woolley declared him to be – a really sweet horse. "Goofy" and "a little needy sometimes" is how Stockar describes him, adding that he prefers people to other horses. Turnout time is an absolute must for his – and her – mental health. A bit of a rough-houser, he goes out with an older group of geldings who pay no mind to his antics.

Far from his days as a runaway, he now loves going bridleless or with no tack at all. He's happy to hack around the farm and hop over fences one day then go out and jump big cross-country fences the next. Stockar says the horse knows his way around Fair Hill better than she does and is happy to give a quiet lead to young horses transitioning to second careers. He's very brave, she said, as long as there are no frogs. He hates frogs.

"It took awhile for him to settle down, and honestly I'm not sure he has. He's still a bit of a knucklebutt. But he always tries so hard, always giving 110 percent whether you're asking for it or not. He really wants to be a good boy." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Moments matter as Maryland Million turns 40

The Maryland Million, scheduled for Oct. 11 at Laurel Park, hosts its 40th edition this year. I was not at the first one, though it's fun to think of the people who were. Jack Van Berg trained a winner, so did P.G. Johnson, Woody Stephens and Allen Jerkens. So, too, did Marylander Katy Voss – who will probably have a runner this year.

October's magazine always finds a Maryland Million story, which sounds simple enough. This year we went in a little different direction. The goal was to find 40 moments. Casey Kasem may or may not have been mentioned in the initial conversation, though we really weren't going for the "top 40" moments or anything you could dance to. We just wanted 40 and they could be momentous, magnificent, personal, big-picture, historic or virtually unknown. We asked for input, got some, then filled in with favorites from various people involved professionally or personally.

Writer/editor Vinnie Perrone put the text together, designer Barrie Reightler made it shine and the 17-page package sums up the Maryland Million and its status as both an every-man event and a major achievement in Thoroughbred racing. One reader sent in a note about free hats. Other contributions literally relate to life and death. That's the Maryland Million, where the world's most influential stallion Northern Dancer gets remembered alongside the considerably lower profile Parker's Storm Cat; where Hall of Famer Safely Kept makes a list with 113-start claimer Let Me Be Frank; where the legendary Stephens joins Maryland stalwart Annette Eubanks among discussion topics.

Kirsten Green contributed one of my favorites. In 1998, she attended the Maryland Million with her non-racing family because the event made a "things to do" list in *The Washington Post*. Today, Green makes a difference for ex-racehorses every day as the executive director of the Retired Racehorse Project. The Maryland Million did that.

Racing journalist Marty McGee came out of a retirement with a contribution that pointed to the event's staying power. Jim McKay used his considerable influence to get the first one off the ground in 1986, but even he wouldn't have guaranteed success. A stretch battle between past Maryland jockey phenom Chris McCarron and then Maryland jockey phenom Kent Desormeaux in the 1987 Lassie at Pimlico convinced McGee that McKay's big idea might stick around. Not only is the Maryland Million still going, it has been copied by multiple Thoroughbred states around the country.

The challenge, of course, is to make it all last. Even if it's still going, the Maryland Million isn't quite what it was.

Start with the purses available (a million in 1986 is not the same as a million in 2025). Add a shrinking pool of potential

entries (far fewer Maryland sires produce far fewer foals now). Toss in the impact of major racing opportunities around the country. Maryland Million races used to overfill with state-sired runners, now there's a safety provision that Maryland-breds can run if the Maryland-sired list dips too low.

The Million used to bounce between Laurel and Pimlico. Laurel is the only host now. And Pimlico will stand alone someday. That's OK, but also carries a little less buzz for fans and participants.

Thanks to McKay and some others, corporate involvement played a major part in the early days. First-year winner Smart 'n Quick even wound up in promotional material for the First National Bank of Maryland. I bet you didn't know that Maryland Million started the trend of hospitality tents in the infield of a racetrack. Corporate sponsorship is more challenging today, though look for some more partnerships this year, plus a pre-race event at Camden Yards Oct. 10 and a rejuvenated Maryland Million board driving new ideas.

Here's hoping that energy pays real dividends and fuels purse increases because the Maryland Two Million would sound nice. While we're hoping, maybe Maryland's Thoroughbred industry can coalesce around the stability of a rebuilt Pimlico, a new training center and a new management structure. Perhaps that stabilizes the stallion business – some success from a young sire already here couldn't hurt – and helps bring more mares to the state.

No pressure. I'm not planning to attend the 80th Maryland Million, though I guess it's a possibility, and I'm definitely not working on a list of 80 moments but they shouldn't be that difficult to find. ■

The 1987 Maryland Million at Pimlico made history with infield sponsor tents.

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Forty and Fabulous

MOMENTS PILE UP AS MARYLAND MILLION REACHES MILESTONE

Edited by Vinnie Perrone
Photographs by Neena Ewing, Cappy Jackson, Lydia Williams, Nikki Sherman, Jimmy McCue, Jerry Dzierwinski, Anne Litz, Brant Gamma

To commemorate this 40th edition of the Jim McKay Maryland Million, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association asked the racing community to help craft a collage of 40 Million Day memories. Responses from names new and known – mixed with a few who covered the day journalistically over four decades – form a distinctive montage that reflects the program's color, variety and breadth.

Sure, the Maryland Million celebrates state stallions and their springing offspring as a one-of-a-kind day at the races. But contributing writers also deem it a keepsake, a trendsetter, a muse, a drama, a chance, a scripture, an exposition, a gold rush, a boutique, an enduring marvel.

Through varied lenses, these Million Day snapshots reflect twinkling stars in a dazzling galaxy ahead of the 2025 races at Laurel Park Oct. 11.

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

Herat, a son of Northern Dancer ridden by Jerry Bailey, won the first Maryland Million Classic in 1986.

Glow (second from left) won the inaugural Maryland Million Turf for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens in 1986.

Starting Somewhere

You can't try to find Maryland Million moments without starting at the beginning. Jim McKay's idea, first discussed in 1985, became a reality in 1986 and hosted 20,103 racing fans at Laurel.

The mighty Northern Dancer sired two winners – 3-year-old Glow for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens in the Turf and 4-year-old Herat for Hall of Fame trainer Jack Van Berg in the Classic. Both were prepping for Breeders' Cup races. In further touches of greatness, Hall of Fame trainers Allen Jerkens (the Nursery with First Patriot) and P.G. Johnson (the Ladies with Dismasted) won races that day. Hall of Fame jockey Jerry Bailey won three. Canadian Hall of Famers Jim Day (trainer) and Don Seymour (jockey) teamed to win the Lassie with Smart Halo.

After he won the Sprint with King's Swan, trainer Dick Dutrow gave the Maryland Million a ringing endorsement.

"This thing will balloon," he said. "You will have the sponsors lining up to get in."

Forty editions in, there's no line but Maryland Million still delivers.

– Joe Clancy

All in the Family

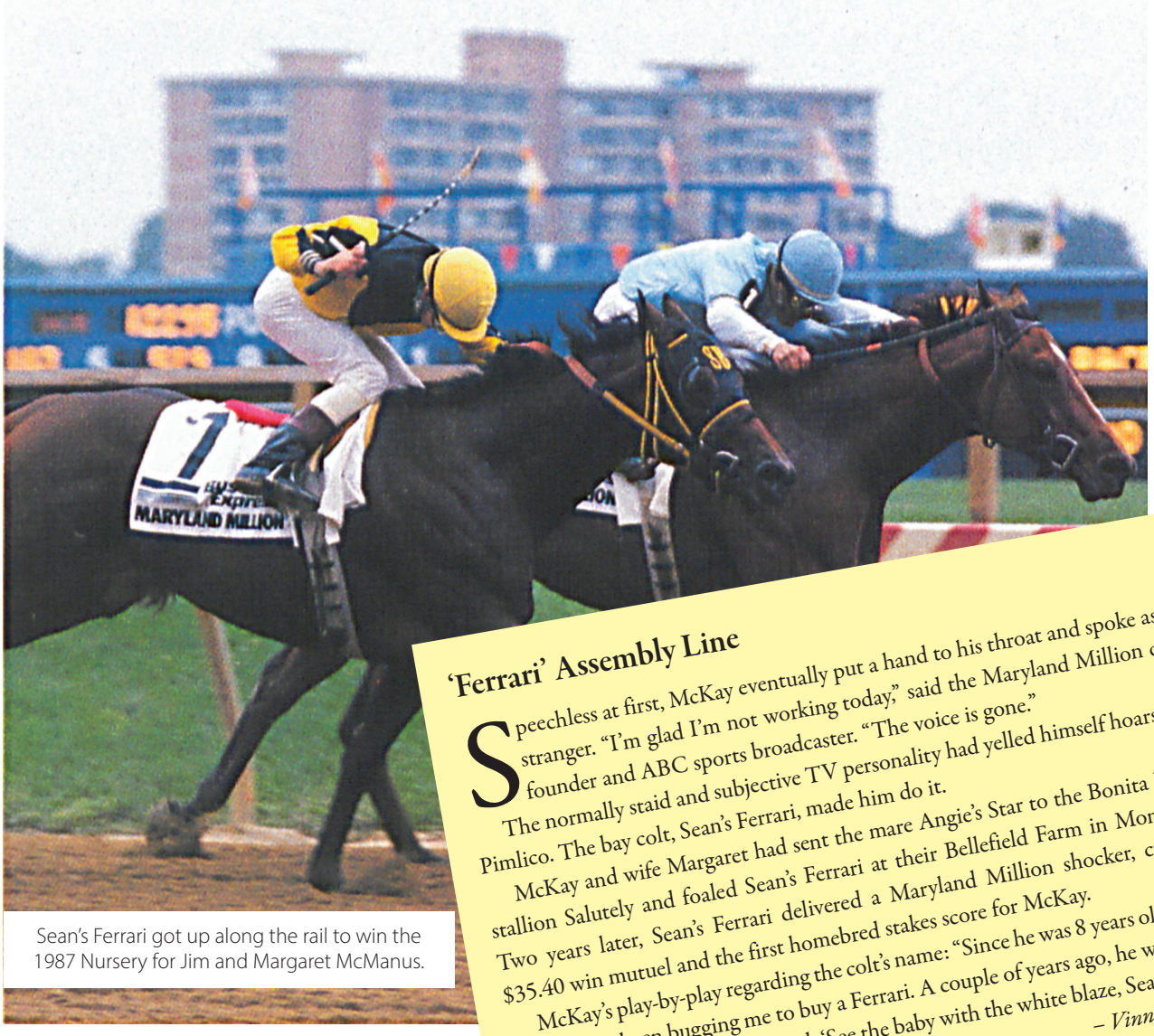
On Oct. 18, 1986, Jim McKay's dream came to fruition: The inaugural Maryland Million Day was created to showcase the Maryland-sired Thoroughbred. The excited crowd and I would make great memories while seeing entrants that we had long and fond connections with. As a professional racing photographer, I eagerly witnessed the progeny of sires such as Northern Dancer, Smarten, Rollicking, Lord Gaylord, Horatius and Shelter Half. Pride shone as local horsemen entered the winner's circle.

Some from that inaugural running have been staunch Million Day supporters throughout: Jerry Robb, Hamilton Smith, Katy Voss, the Merryman family, the Dutrow family and the Capuano family. The prestige from renowned trainers Woody Stephens, Jack Van Berg and Allen Jerkens also graced us that day. Connecting the present with the past, both [Hall of Famer] Safely Kept and [2025 star] Mindframe have ancestral ties to the first Maryland Million!

The Merryman family celebrated homebred Smart 'n Quick's Oaks win in 1986.

They are like your children. You breed them and race them, and there is nothing better than your child crossing the finish line first!

– Lauren Heathcote Amberman



Sean's Ferrari got up along the rail to win the 1987 Nursery for Jim and Margaret McManus.

'Ferrari' Assembly Line

Speechless at first, McKay eventually put a hand to his throat and spoke as a stranger. "I'm glad I'm not working today," said the Maryland Million co-founder and ABC sports broadcaster. "The voice is gone."

The normally staid and subjective TV personality had yelled himself hoarse at Pimlico. The bay colt, Sean's Ferrari, made him do it.

McKay and wife Margaret had sent the mare Angie's Star to the Bonita Farm stallion Salutely and foaled Sean's Ferrari at their Bellefield Farm in Monkton. Two years later, Sean's Ferrari delivered a Maryland Million shocker, cuing a $35.40 win mutuel and the first homebred stakes score for McKay.

McKay's play-by-play regarding the colt's name: "Since he was 8 years old, Sean, my son, has been bugging me to buy a Ferrari. A couple of years ago, he was down on the farm . . . and Margaret said, 'See the baby with the white blaze, Sean? That's your Ferrari.' "

– Vinnie Perrone

Triple Play

The 1987 Maryland Million stands out in my memory. In our first race, the Oaks, our two fillies, Angelina County and Praise Her, finished first and second. I thought Laffit Pincay Jr. was on the better part of the entry, but Mario Pino and Angelina County hit the wire half a length in front. There was a foul claimed against Praise Her, who'd run as a coupled entry with Angelina County. Angelina's County's owner was a first-class lady; her husband, a top lawyer, had represented Nixon and Kennedy. I said in the winner's circle that I hoped they didn't disqualify both horses. He said, "If they do, we're going to court!" Praise Her was taken down and placed third, but Angelina County kept the win.

The next race was the Nursery. We had Sean's Ferrari against the heavy favorite called King's Snow and leading rider Kent Desormeaux. They dueled down the lane, and I thought the old master outrode the young Cajun kid and won. I had guaranteed Pincay a $3,000 commission plus all expenses without telling the owners. That race took care of the commission.

The biggest thing was getting Jim McKay (born James McManus) in the winner's circle on Maryland Million Day. It was the only time I saw him speechless when they put a microphone in his face in the winner's circle. The race was sponsored by Business Express Airlines, whose owner shared the same post office where Jim went on vacation. His name was also Jim McManus. Sometime before that day, my wife Joan and I were having dinner at Jim and wife Margaret's house with the other Jim McManus. We looked at a horse after dinner and I told him, "Put up the fifty thousand to sponsor the Nursery and we will sell you a part interest in this horse and you can win the money back." Probably the dumbest thing I ever told a potential client but, in the end, it worked out that way.

Gold Glove won the Ladies for Ivy Dell Stable as Pincay rode a masterful come-from-behind race. That made three victories in one day. That night we celebrated at Jim and Margaret's house; he called the *Daily Racing Form* and they told him I was the first trainer to do so. Ironically, Pincay had picked up a mount in the eighth race on a horse called Mister S. M. Before that race, Pincay's agent came to me and said that he had parlayed win bets on all three horses I'd booked Pincay on (still live for the earlier coupled entry score). He had several thousand dollars in his pocket and asked if he should bet it on Mr. S. M. I told him that I didn't know the horse, he was from New York, but rumor is that he should win. He bet the whole lot and, of course, the horse got beat. Typical racetrack story.

– J. William "Bill" Boniface

Ameri Allen (inside) and Ritchie Trail finished one-two in the 1990 Lassie for freshman stallion Allen's Prospect.

Launch Pad

My favorite Maryland Million memory? Inseparably, the two 2-year-old races on the 1990 card at Pimlico. Our young Mr. Prospector stallion, Allen's Prospect, was a first-crop sire, and we needed him to get a fast start at stud. He obliged. His fillies, Ameri Allen and Ritchie Trail, ran 1-2 in the Lassie, and his colt Xray flew in from Del Mar to win the Nursery.

With $140,000 in sudden earnings, Allen's Prospect leapt from 17th to third on the freshmen sire list. He never looked back and went on to a brilliant career, twice leading the national general sire list by number of winners.

– Josh Pons

Secret Agent Man

A race defined by four words possibly never spoken or written: Credit the jockey agent.

The 1990 Lassie overnight did not include the winless Ameri Allen because the filly hadn't won enough prize money. That is, until agent Eric Fried informed the Pimlico racing office that it hadn't factored Ameri Allen's most recent payday in the calculations that determined the starting lineup. That $690 fourth-place finish, Fried advised, would gain her entry.

Maryland racing rules allowed a race to be redrawn before 3 p.m. the day entries were printed. Assistant racing secretary Tommy Baker investigated, substantiated Fried's claim and had the field redrawn, Ameri Allen replacing Alcoolu.

No better than fourth in three previous starts, Ameri Allen trudged home first at 12-1 under Alberto Delgado, Fried's protege, gave Hal C.B. Clagett his first Million win as owner and breeder and showcased upstart stallion Allen's Prospect. Clagett couldn't make the race, but trainer Jerry Robb promised him a good story.

– Perrone

The Warmth of 'Ice'

Brilliant Ice winning the 2024 Classic for 80-year-old trainer Annette Eubanks. The backstory is also a quintessential Maryland Million story as written by Joe Clancy and others. Heartwarming. We still cry when we watch the replay.

– Philip Bartz

Fortune Teller

As a chart caller for Equibase, I've been fortunate to cover the Maryland Million since 1992. Many equine performances have stuck with me through that time, and one remarkable performance by a guy in a coat and tie.

The year was 2023. And on that second Saturday in October at Laurel Park, I was witness to one of the greatest calls by a public handicapper. Dan Illman, former *Daily Racing Form* analyst covering the Maryland circuit and now head of media relations for the Maryland Jockey Club, was in town for the Today At The Races show prior to that Maryland Million card. When he and Kali Francois got to race six, the Lassie for 2-year-old fillies, I took a glance at the screen and saw number 12 as his top pick. Per usual, Dan was loaded with information to support his tout on Narrow Leaf Farm's Miss Harriett, trained by Brandon McFarlane. A first-time starter from a smaller barn, she was going to be a HUGE price. As an analyst myself, I loved it. Dan got back to the press box post-show and took some ribbing but stuck to his guns about his longshot selection.

Miss Harriett, at 62-1, took over around the turn and dug in tenaciously to prevail by a neck in her career debut. She returned $126.60 for the win and the press box erupted. Ain't Da Beer Cold won the Classic that day. Kind of fitting.

– Keith Feustle

Gelo Hall, with Bobby Lillis looking on, received the 2014 Unsung Hero Award.

Hero's Salute

Howard "Gelo" Hall receiving the 2014 Joe Kelly Unsung Hero Award.

– Bobby Lillis

Hall died 14 months later at age 88. The quiet, kind, genial racing fixture was 11 when he watched Seabiscuit upset War Admiral in the 1938 Pimlico Special and spent most of his remaining years on the track as exercise rider, trainer, jockey's agent and racing official.

What's the big idea?

The 2020 Ladies result showcased all that is good with the Maryland Million as small-time owner/breeder Vivian Rall won the filly/mare turf race with Epic Idea. The 4-year-old filly led throughout and scored by three-quarters of a length as stewards denied a foul claim by the jockey of runner-up Gennie Highway.

Or so it seemed. Months after the race, the Maryland Racing Commission heard an appeal of the interference ruling and reversed the stewards – denying Rall a career highlight, replacing a $55,000 winner's check with a $20,000 runner-up's and making Epic Idea stakes-placed instead of a stakes winner.

Apparently offended, the daughter of Great Notion returned the next year and won the Ladies a second time. No foul claim.

– Clancy

By Joe

One of our most memorable was when Surf Light (by Malibu Moon) won the 2005 Ladies just days after our patriarch, Joe Pons, died. It was our first Maryland Million Day win [as owner], and we knew Joe was riding her to the finish!

– Country Life Farm

Hunt's Up

In addition to the fantastic racing, one of my favorite exhibitions is the Goshen Hunt. I love watching the huntsman, whippers-in and the hounds come charging up the track. Just let out of their kennel, the hounds are in an all-out frenzy. As they get to the front of the grandstand, the huntsman sounds his horn and the hounds obey, immediately surrounding the huntsman's horse. The whippers-in surround the group to assist the huntsman. I love hearing the huntsman sound his horn with several different directions to his hounds. I was a member of the Goshen Hounds Hunt Club in Montgomery County, Md., from 1960 to 1975, so this is very special to me and brings back many great memories of riding to the hounds. There are many aspects of fox hunting that have longstanding traditions that date back to Europe. It was fun to be a part of the history and ceremonies of the hunt clubs in Maryland.

– Cathy Rosenberger

'Things to Do'

I didn't come up in a "horse family," but my mother's love language was encouraging my hobbies and interests, so the joke was on her when she won a PTA auction package of four riding lessons at Jane Seigler's Reddemeade Farm for her third-grade daughter. Reddemeade was technically my first exposure to the Thoroughbred, where quite a lot of the lesson-horses were deeply patient and tolerant off-track Thoroughbreds.

As a horse-crazy kid just learning to jump cross rails, the closest thing to seeing your sport on TV was watching Thoroughbred racing. I have a vivid memory of screaming myself hoarse when it looked like Real Quiet had captured his Triple Crown bid in 1998, and subsequently throwing myself on the floor in a dramatic heap moments later when the Belmont Stakes photo finish was called for Victory Gallop. I would guess it was that same fall, or maybe the following year, that my observant mother heard about Maryland Million Day at Laurel Park, likely in some "things to do this weekend" guide in *The Washington Post*. Laurel is just a quick jaunt up Route 1 from my childhood home and so off we went, neither of us having set foot at a track.

I remember mom giving me $5 and a program and telling me she would place a bet for me. I got as far as deciphering that the gray horse in the saddling paddock had a female jockey in pretty purple silks (and odds something like 40-1), and that was all I needed to blow my $5. It would be a long time before I had occasion to visit a track again, but Thoroughbreds remained a big part of my life, including Shining Witness, a son of Deputed Testamony who raced almost exclusively at Laurel and Pimlico and later took me through first-level dressage with the Reddemeade junior show team. I'm often reminded what a gateway moment Maryland Million Day was for me, and how little my handicapping skills have evolved since!

– Kirsten Green

Green is executive director of the Retired Racehorse Project

Saturday's Child

Anna's Bandit coming back in seven days to take the 2019 Distaff (Oct. 19) after winning the Cavada at Charles Town.

– Jessica Lindsay

Part of a six-race win streak for Great Notion-sired Anna's Bandit, a West Virginia-bred who retired 17 for 39 in 2021. Her first foal, the 2-year-old Tapit colt Tartabull, finished third and fifth in two Saratoga starts this summer.

The Cat's Meow

Ben's Cat (right) won his third Turf Sprint in 2012.

Ben's Cat seemed so automatic that in 2012 there was no reason to think he wouldn't just keep winning.

Bred, owned and trained by King T. Leatherbury, Ben's Cat finished the Turf Sprint as one of four horses to capture the same Maryland Million race three times in a row. It felt like taking part in a living history exhibit. Here was this jet-black gelding whose path to the racetrack included a broken pelvis, zero starts at 2 and 3, a wisecracking trainer pushing 80 years old and a long list of fans who seemed to relish all of it.

And the 6-year-old son of Parker's Storm Cat looked like he could extend the streak. He could be the first horse to win four Maryland Million races. Five and six were debated.

Then everything changed.

The Turf Sprint was discontinued. Ben's Cat showed up anyway and finished second (by a neck) to Roadhog in the 2013 Turf at a mile. Back for more in 2014, he again finished second (by a half-length) to Talk Show Man in the Turf. Leatherbury had enough of the distance challenge, so he sent Ben's Cat to the 6-furlong Sprint on dirt in 2015. He finished second, by a dirty nose, to Jack's in the Deck.

Less than a length separated Ben's Cat, who finished sixth in the 2016 Sprint, from a half-dozen Maryland Million wins.

And we were there.

– Clancy

Beware of the Cat (left) caught Under Oath in the 1989 Oaks.

Smart Recovery

People have a way of doing dumb things. Animals too. Jockey Eddie Maple said as much after he got off Beware of the Cat and said, "She broke a little stupid." That's how the papers quoted him anyway.

It happened in the 1989 Oaks. Beware of the Cat reared in the gate, then walked into the race and still ran down the favorite, Under Oath, proving we can all overcome deficiencies if we try. *– E.M. Bailey*

Jim Ryan's Caveat-sired homebred filly, Beware of the Cat had lost vision in her right eye when she reportedly scraped it against a feed-tub hook, which required a protective bubble and riding instructions to keep her outside. Ryan's first Million victory ended Under Oath's winning streak at six.

Boy, Wonder

Daniel Edelstein congratulating jockey Charlie Marquez after winning the Starter Handicap on B Determined in 2021. *– Suzanne Stettinius*

Home Run

During the early 1990s, trainer Nancy Heil emerged from the shadows among conditioners at the Bowie Training Center courtesy of her talented sophomore trainee Fighting Notion, a multiple stakes winner who would later lead the field to the top of the stretch in the Grade 1 Preakness Stakes before eventually yielding to Summer Squall and Unbridled.

But her victory with Great Notion-sired homebred Karan's Notion in the Maryland Million Sprint 30 years later perhaps had the most meaning since the winner's share literally enabled Heil to keep her home. Like many Americans during the Covid-19 pandemic, Heil had been permitted to put her monthly mortgage payments on hold for six months, but she was facing a lofty balloon payment when that grace period ended. Karan's Notion (still in training) enabled a crucial payment when he finished second in his debut that June at huge odds, then forged a 16-1 upset in the 2020 Sprint to provide Heil the funds to pacify the lenders.

– Ted Black

Hi-Ho!

Homebred Sloane Ranger, by Parker's Storm Cat, crossed the finish line first in the Maryland Million Sprint of 2011. The call of the announcer is imprinted in my mind – "And it's Sloane Ranger" (enunciated like the old TV series *The Lone Ranger*). These memories last for your lifetime!

– Vicky Schowe

How to Win Friends

In fall 2001, my first year at *The Washington Post*, the newspaper's legendary racing columnist Andy Beyer still looked at me as kind of a necessary nuisance. More than once when I asked a question, he responded with unmistakable irritation, "Don't call me Mr. Beyer."

At the Maryland Million, I spent much of the afternoon in the press box counting down to the Sprint and touting Jorgie Stover, a late closer who had finished a dull fourth in an allowance race the month before. I stood largely – and loudly – alone as Jorgie Stover was the longest price on the board, just under 18-1 in a field of eight.

Longshot Jorgie Stover (inside) gets it done in the 2001 Sprint.

For the first half-mile, Jorgie Stover trailed, but when he moved, he really moved and won by a head. Having paid $37.80, I was stuffed with cash, and Beyer, maybe for the first time, now asked me a question: "How did you know that?"

I'd gained his respect by showing I knew the horses, and we became a bona-fide team at *The Post* and great pals ever since.

– John Scheinman

Good Trouble

Mz. Zill Bear's winning run in the 1993 Ladies had her husband-and-wife owners headed for an argument.

Bill and Phyllis Dixon, whose Mea Culpa Stables bred the Salutely filly, stated divergent aims after Mz. Zill Bear made the Ladies her third straight victory. Bill strongly favored the All Along Stakes-G2 two weeks later on the very Laurel Park turf course she'd commanded the Ladies. Phyllis considered the All Along too soon in rather blatant terms. "If you run her back in two weeks," she told her husband, "you're going to have the finest broodmare in the state."

Ron Cartwright, who trained two other winners on the card, smiled and said the filly would have the last word.

– Perrone

Mz. Zill Bear spoke up, finishing fourth in the All Along in the first of 23 additional starts to her career. She won the Ladies again in 1994, following up with a third in the All Along, and 1995. As a broodmare, eventually, she produced three winners.

Archangel

At the risk of being sacrilegious, it looked like something out of the Old Testament. The black sky unleashed torrential rain. Mario Pino didn't need an ark, though – he had Brilliant Patriot.

– Irene R.

In a raging thunderstorm, Brilliant Patriot splashed to an improbable victory in the 1995 Classic. Claimed for $25,000 by Vinnie Blengs four months earlier, he outdid graded stakes winners Oliver's Twist and Ameri Valay and handicap star Mary's Buckaroo.

Veteran Frugal Doc (center) broke with Oliver's Twist (right) and Short Stay (left) in the 1986 Classic.

A Race for the Aged

Seeking redemption in the '96 Classic, Oliver's Twist overwhelmed Brilliant Patriot in the Laurel stretch and edged past 9-year-old frontrunner Frugal Doc. What happened next was a move for the ages. Or would that be aged?

In his 109th start, Frugal Doc became enlivened by the challenge, steeled along the rail and caused bewilderment at 35-1.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I figure [Frugal Doc] would resurge like that," said Alberto Delgado, Oliver's Twist's rider. "I was in shock. I looked over and saw who it was. I couldn't believe it."

"At least one half of the owners thought this was over his head," said Ed Wilson, who shared Frugal Doc's ownership with Toby Madeoy. "He surprised me today."

Then one of the oldest active sons of Baederwood, Frugal Doc paid $72.20 with his 29th victory and enhanced Scott Posey's $18,500 claim. Omar Klinger, who hadn't ridden Frugal Doc theretofore, picked up the mount an hour before the race.

– Perrone

A Head for Giveaways

Pretty weak, but I love collecting the promo hats. Don't have every year's, alas, but a nifty collection nonetheless.

– Anonymous

Hello Again

One Maryland Million Day featured an autograph session by celebrated former and current jockeys. I found Steve Cauthen (1978, Affirmed) among them at a table in the clubhouse, approached him with my hand out and announced, "I ponied you on General Assembly in the Laurel Futurity in 1978." As he stood up and took my hand, the look on his face was priceless. He was so gracious and genuinely greeted me. I was pleased to see that he still looked great three decades later, after his retirement and career in Europe. And even after winning so many important races and riding for the Queen of England, he still had his Kentucky charm. I ponied him several times when he was a teenager and noted, even then, that he had large feet for a jockey. He also had large hands and I thought to myself his career was going to be short. But he had so much talent and was able to ride overseas where the weight limits are more generous.

– Rosenberger

Tim Keefe (left) led Forest Boyce and Eighttofasttocatch after the 2014 Classic.

The G.O.A.T.?

Gigi the goat was unimpressed. Everybody else couldn't get enough.

Eighttofasttocatch won his third Maryland Million Classic in 2014 and I wondered how to do the achievement justice. At age 8, he'd produced another quality performance. He'd won the first two for owner Arnie Heft, who died in March and left widow Sylvia, trainer Tim Keefe – and Gigi too – to carry on. Eighttofasttocatch went to the Classic off a single 2014 start, last of eight in the Japan Racing Association on turf. Bettors made him 3-5 anyway. And he won in a wire-to-wire romp for jockey Forest Boyce.

Afterward, Keefe was stoic, quiet even. His horse had joined – maybe even surpassed – such Maryland Million stalwarts as Little Bold John, Timely Warning, Taking Risks, two-time Classic hero Algar and others.

"I remember Algar, I remember all those horses," Keefe said. "To think that somebody might remember Eighttofasttocatch that way is humbling."

Win photos taken, I followed the trainer to the parking lot, asked if I could go back to the barn. We jumped in his car and there we stood in his shadowy shedrow trying to sum it all up. He talked about the pressure, about what it would have felt like to lose, about training a horse who made himself part of the family.

Then Gigi bounced across the shedrow and took a crooked look at Keefe, who laughed and finally let it all sink in.

"Hey, Geeg, you see what your man did today?" he asked the goat.

She didn't answer, but I had my story.

– Clancy

In 2012, Jazzy Idea (left) won the Oaks for owner/trainer/breeder Edwin Merryman, and Roadhog won the Turf for sister Lizzie Merryman, trainer for owners/breeders Ellen and Dale Schilling.

A Merry Time

The Maryland Million can feel like a family reunion sometimes – all times? – but 2012 went a step further as Lizzie and Edwin Merryman won races to join their sisters Ann Merryman and Katy Voss on the list of winning trainers.

Jazzy Idea got there first, winning the Oaks for Edwin, also her owner and breeder. The filly had her fifth win in 11 starts as part of a throwback 3-year-old campaign that included starts at Pimlico, Belmont Park, Monmouth Park, Charles Town, Saratoga for two Grade 1 dirt tries, and Laurel Park. Afterward, Edwin and son Louis – then stallion manager at Northview Stallion Station – posed for a "job well done" photo in the winner's circle. The achievement mattered to them, and that's a big part of the Maryland Million.

Four races later, the youngest Merryman took her turn as Roadhog outran fellow 17-hand powerhouse Change of Command through the stretch to capture the Turf and give Lizzie her first Maryland Million win as trainer. The moment wasn't lost on her, either.

"It's fun, I love coming here and winning races, it's nice to win in Maryland," she said. "I'm a Maryland-bred."

Indeed, the Merryman siblings go way back in Maryland and with the Maryland Million. Their parents John and Kitty Merryman won a race on the inaugural 1986 card – the Oaks with homebred Smart 'n Quick, trained by Voss. – *Clancy*

Let Me Be Frank (right) led gate-to-wire to win in 2008.

The Thrill of It All

My lasting memories: the conversations, new relationships and networks developed during last year's event! Oh, and the horse races, and the food and beverages were excellent!!! I had a great time. *– A.C. Alrey*

Frankness

Let Me Be Frank, Race 1, 2008.
– Mark Lapidus

The son of Awad won the Starter Handicap by 10 lengths for owner Lapidus, trainer Damon Dilodovico and jockey Travis Dunkelberger. A durable claimer bred by Plane Tree Farm, Let Me Be Frank raced eight seasons and won 23 of 113 starts.

Top Brass

Bugler Bethann Michelle Dixon.

– Lillis

An equestrian who foxhunts with the Goshen Hounds Hunt Club, Dixon worked weekdays as a music teacher in Anne Arundel County, Md.

Queen for a Day

The 1988 Lassie won by Ms. Gold Pole – still can't believe she beat two Hall of Famers. Obviously we didn't know it on the day. But looking back on it, it was amazing.

– Cindy Deubler

Future Hall of Fame jockey Julie Krone and the New Jersey-bred daughter of North Pole delivered big at 7 furlongs, defeating Open Mind and Safely Kept. Fellow New Jersey-bred Open Mind, trained by D. Wayne Lukas, and Maryland-bred star Safely Kept combined to win 33 stakes, three Eclipse Awards, two Breeders' Cup races, and $4 million in purses and entered racing's national Hall of Fame together in 2011.

Trained by John Forbes for owner/breeder Richard Troncone, Ms. Gold Pole won two more stakes in 1988 and produced four winners as a broodmare. A son, Copper Canyon, won 20 races. A daughter, Struckbylightning, produced millionaire Royal Posse.

Snow King brought his people – minus one – to the winner's circle in 1988.

A Win, a Loss

The 1988 Nursery winner's circle gathering was incomplete. Snow King had just substantiated trainer Marvin Moncrief's belief in the Rollicking colt, which left owner/breeder Howard Bender noting the vacancy and dabbing his eyes with a handkerchief.

"He's the one who loved this colt," Bender said of Moncrief, "the one who thought he could really be a racehorse."

Six days before the Million, Moncrief died of stomach cancer, leaving the training to assistant Loren Pate. "I felt like I didn't lose a boss," Pate said. "I lost a good friend."

Bender lauded the staff's resolve. "The stable crew was great," he said. "They gave it their all, and today was the culmination of that team effort. We had hoped Marvin would get well and come back. We were all waiting for him."

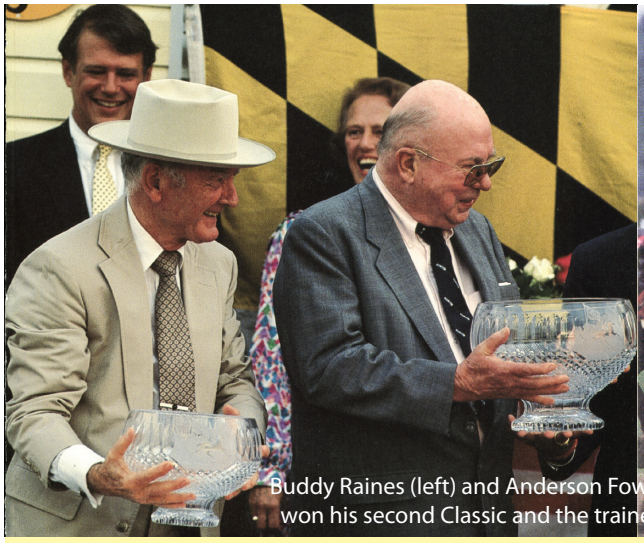
Waiting for Bender and wife Sondra at Glade Valley Farm was Rollicking, who sired a record four winners on the Maryland Million card.

– Perrone

Family Affair

The first time I had a horse win on Maryland Million Day! The 2023 Maryland Million Starter Handicap – Disputed Claim, trained by my cousin Mike Geralis. A day my family will never forget!

– Beth Metrenas-Watts



Buddy Raines (left) and Anderson Fowler celebrated after Timely Warning won his second Classic and the trainer/owner team, their third, in 1990.

The Sunshine Boys

After winning the Classic with Timely Warning in 1990, owner Anderson Fowler and trainer Buddy Raines looked to the future – as men in their 80s do. A year later, they made the winner's circle again as Timely Warning duplicated his victory and gave the men a triple as they had teamed up to win the 1989 Classic with Master Speaker.

"All year long, Buddy was pointing him for the Maryland Million," said Fowler, a New Jersey resident with long ties to Maryland's Thoroughbred industry. "We did everything the same as the year before – Buddy ran him in the same races, trained him the same, fed him the same."

Ridden by Raines' grandson Mike Luzzi, Timely Warning took care of the rest.

– Clancy

Timely Warning retired to Cricket Goodall's Outfoxed Farm where he lived a long and happy life.

Now You See Her . . .

Not to be outdone by Timely Warning and his connections, star sprint mare Safely Kept won her third consecutive Distaff on the same 1991 card. The Maryland-bred carried 130 pounds and led throughout in her final appearance in her home state. A month later, she closed her career with a graded win at the Meadowlands – her 24th from 31 lifetime starts.

The nation's champion sprinter (over males) in 1989 and a Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 winner (also over males) in 1990, she joined racing's national Hall of Fame in 2011.

– Clancy

Trainer Bernie Houghton (second left) and owners Wayne and Susie Chatfield-Taylor join jockey Forest Boyce and presenters in the winner's circle.

Tears for Cheers

Emotions ran high after the 2017 Distaff when Crabcakes flew the green and yellow Buckingham Farm silks one more time.

Trainer Bernie Houghton teared up in the postrace interview while thinking of his Aunt Binnie, the 3-year-old filly's breeder, who died two months earlier. Wayne and Susie Chatfield-Taylor, gifted the Buckingham horses in Binnie Houghton's will, weren't far behind. Binnie's daughters Gen and Kim, niece Wendy and granddaughter Kailey felt it too.

"It's hard not to cry," Bernie said for everyone.

Horses will do that to you. Crabcakes, a homebred whose third dam Annie Cake was bred by Binnie Houghton's father Anderson Fowler (of Timely Warning and Master Speaker fame), won the Distaff again in 2018. Her 3-year-old daughter by Tiz the Law, Wunderkind, won at Colonial Downs this past August.

– Clancy

A Lasting Impression

Bold new concepts in racing have been known to falter or fail (remember the Sunshine Millions? The Great State Challenge?), and the fledgling Maryland Million, when being run for just the second time on Sept. 19, 1987, was no sure thing to stick around.

But when Chris McCarron, the one-time Maryland phenom back home for a day after blossoming into a true superstar on the West Coast, deftly drew his stick in the Pimlico stretch to begin asking Thirty Eight Go Go to get past odds-on Lady Danger and 17-year-old Kent Desormeaux in the Maryland Million Lassie, I suddenly had a gut feeling the series had a real chance to become an annual event. And now, lo and behold, here we are, all these many years later. Congratulations to everyone who played a part.

– Marty McGee

McGee covered racing for the Baltimore Sun, Daily Racing Form and other publications for 38 years.

Redeemer King

For all his Maryland dominance across 35 years, trainer King Leatherbury had sent out 20 straight Maryland Million also-rans as the 1994 Classic approached. Then came Taking Risks.

The 4-year-old bay, a vintage Leatherbury claim at $20,000, emphatically ended the emptiness in track-record time at Laurel Park. Rarely given to hyperbole, Leatherbury exclaimed, "He's an absolute sensation!"

Baird Brittingham of Lakeville Stables offered no counterpoint after Taking Risks, by Two Punch, pushed his barn earnings toward $500,000 in 11 starts.

– Perrone

Leatherbury more than made up for the lost time, winning 10 Maryland Million races as part of a Hall of Fame career.

Winner at Home

When Admirals War Chest won the 2016 Classic, I suppose I just wanted a different angle. He'd won the year before in the same front-running fashion for the same connections and there wasn't a whole lot new to chronicle.

So I went to see him at owner Sinatra Thoroughbreds' Berkley Farm Training Center in Darlington. Six days after the big win, he was dirty, dusty, itchy, ornery and proud. He begged for a scratch behind an ear, bummed a mint (or 12), tried to untie my shoe. Anne Litz got a great photo of him rolling in the dirt that we used in the magazine.

The visit reminded me of my earliest association with racehorses – watching and working with them on the farm or at the track. Racing success is only part of the story. Sometimes you have to go find the rest.

– Clancy

Maryland Million founder and namesake Jim McKay and the first executive director Rich Wilcke helped bring it to life.

A Longshot Delivers

Summer of 1986, Maryland Million Day is fast approaching. I quit my farm job to go to work at MHBA on the Maryland Million Day plans. It was an exciting time, a new idea, a new event! I had gone to the Breeders' Cup at Hollywood Park in 1984 and it had been amazing. Maryland Million had been a suggestion that became an idea and turned into a year of planning and getting buy-in (literally) from stallion owners and breeders.

There was no financial investment until Jim McKay opened doors at Baltimore's biggest companies – First National Bank, USF&G Insurance, the Ryland Group, Omni Hotels. He had friends and connections at ESPN, Budweiser and Waterford. The State of Maryland supported the event with the Department of Community and Economic Development a sponsor.

Finally, the money was raised, a million dollars in purses NOT from the purse account, $100,000 stakes all day long – unheard of here! Frank De Francis and Laurel Park wanted to be first to run the day, Chick Lang and Pimlico the following year. The tracks would handle publicity, get fans and bettors to the track. Now they had something to promote. Maryland Million was the first to have sponsor hospitality tents in the infield in 1987. It started the trend.

McKay, Billy Boniface and Bob Manfuso took the skepticism as a challenge. Rich Wilcke, new in town, got the stallion farms and foal nominators on board. After 40 years, we have them to thank for their persistence. Now named for McKay, Maryland Million is still the most important day of racing that focuses on Maryland horses. I'm amazed and proud to have been a part of it for 40 years. How lucky am I?

– Cricket Goodall

Goodall is executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Million Ltd.

Original Maryland Million logo designed by artist Jill Dodson

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Jim McKay

Maryland Million Day

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Proving Ground

BARBADIAN RUNNER ADDS HILTON TO GROWING LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Coady Media*

As Barbadian Runner leveled off and took aim at the leaders in the stretch of the $500,000 Robert Hilton Memorial, owner Scott Groh soaked in the moment and stole a glance at trainer Henry Walters.

"I knew we won once I looked at him, he was wound up," said Groh. "It's just an awesome feeling. I drove three hours to get to the race and then I left to come back home after the race and I don't think I stopped shaking until Sunday sometime. That was a Friday night race, you know."

Everybody knows.

Groh and Walters took their Maryland-bred to Charles Town for the Hilton, a 7-furlong stakes for 3-year-olds on the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic undercard Aug. 22 and he ousted seven rivals including Kentucky Derby-G1 starter Owen Almighty and horses from powerful national barns of Saffie Joseph Jr. and Brad Cox.

The Laurel Park-based Walters kept it simple when he entered the son of Barbados, second in his previous three starts, all stakes, including the Petramalo Mile at Colonial Downs Aug. 9.

"It wasn't an easy spot for him, but for that kind of money you're hoping you can get a good piece of it; that makes it worth the effort," the trainer said. "I always thought he would run good on that type of track – just the way his running style is. He kicks it in on the turn and usually makes up a lot of ground on the turns. He drew an outside post which brought some concern. You can break too sharp and get hung out wide, you can break slow and get in behind horses and not be where you want to be."

Barbadian Runner and Forest Boyce broke just about perfect and found a spot inside off the pace of Faster Gator, Tres Coronas and Neoequos. After a quarter-mile in :22.72, the leaders backed it up a little to a half-mile fraction of :46.97 as Boyce started to advance from seventh. On the final turn, Barbadian Runner did exactly what Walters thought – rallying into the frame, coming off the rail and charging by horses. He caught Neoequos and Faster Gator in mid-stretch and drew off to win by 2½ lengths with his ears pricked in 1:26.39 as Neoequos edged Faster Gator for the place spot and Owen Almighty was eased and finished last.

Boyce loved how the race unfolded and knew Barbadian Runner would at least put in his best effort.

"He is so cool, the neatest little horse because he shows up every time," said the jockey. "It's nice to ride a horse that tries as hard as he does."

Walters figured they were in with a chance off the turn, but stuck to his script.

"When he started to make his move on the turn, I thought he was at least going to be third," Walters said. "Then he straightened away for home and two-thirds of the way home you could see he had a spot and was going to get there. We were in the right place at the right time."

With the right horse.

"This is a dream come true," said Groh, who manages the Pennsylvania-based electrical contracting company H.B. Frazer. "You only catch lightning in a bottle so many times and we sure did. He shows up every race. Any distance, any surface, any track. I think you could put him on marbles and he'd do great."

Dirt or turf will do for now. Groh, who races as AJ Will Win Stables in honor of 7-year-old granddaughter Adalynn Jane Groh, spent $5,000 to buy Barbadian Runner

Barbadian Runner charges through the night to win the $500,000 Robert Hilton Memorial.

from breeder Shamrock Farm at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale in 2023 and has been repaid to the tune of $643,690 from five wins, five seconds and four thirds in 17 starts.

Produced from the unraced Northern Afleet mare Quiet Run, Barbadian Runner went to Timonium as Hip 275. Three siblings were winners. His dam was a sister to six winners including Grade 3 winner It Happened Again, but he was nobody's sales-topper. Groh – who researches pedigrees – found something he liked on paper. He and Walters looked at the colt, now gelding, and put him on the list. Buying prospects at the sale is relatively new to Groh, whose early steps in racing came through claiming.

"I realized that Henry was really good with babies, and I never bought young horses before," he said. "I just started researching and researching and trying to put numbers to it. I use some publications that help, you have to because it's too much to do on your own. You can put pedigree information to use and that's exactly what we he did. Then we spend quite a few days checking the horses out ourselves. Henry went over him pretty thoroughly. We had the horse vetted, got a thumb's up, Henry liked him, and we were certainly happy to get him for the price we got him for."

After early work at McCutchen Training Center in South Carolina, Barbadian Runner came to Walters last year and won his second start, a waiver maiden claimer, at Laurel in July. By year's end, he'd placed in two stakes. Walters wanted an allowance spot to start 2025.

"He was eligible for an a other than," Walters said. "I entered him at least once, maybe twice, but the races didn't go. Eventually it was, 'If you're going to run, you're going to have to run in a stakes.' "

Barbadian Runner won Laurel's Spectacular Bid and Miracle Wood Stakes in January and February to earn a short vacation before returning with a third and a fourth in April and May. He won the Jersey Derby at Monmouth Park

"After two races 13 days apart, I thought we'd ease him into the Maryland Million. He doesn't need a race in between. It's against older horses, so he will get a weight break. The mile-and-an-eighth is not really in his pedigree, but we'll see."

– Trainer Henry Walters, about targeting the Maryland Million Classic Oct. 11

Jockey Forest Boyce, owner Scott Groh (center) and trainer Henry Walters (right) accept the trophies after Barbadian Runner's big win.

May 31, then finished second in the Delaware Derby, Star de Naskra and Petramalo leading to the Hilton.

Walters saddled his first runner in 1980 and has never sent out more than 17 winners in a single year. Last year, the stable earned a career-best $300,678 in purses. Barbadian Runner has helped the barn pile up more than twice that this year (through Sept. 12). The $500,000 Hilton purse was the richest race won by Walters, Boyce and Groh.

Banishing wins the big one

An $80,000 purchase at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky horses of racing age sale last summer, Banishing continued to reward owners Larry Roman and David Jacobson with a 2¼-length score in the $1 million Charles Town Classic. The second choice behind two-time race winner Skippylongstocking rated in sixth early, made a bid before the final turn and drew off late for jockey Tyler Gaffalione.

Bred by Godolphin, Banishing won his second start as a 2-year-old – over future graded stakes winner Pyrenees among others – at the Fair Grounds in December 2022. He missed most of his 3-year-old season, but won an allowance in November before heading to the sale off four defeats. Pulled up and vanned off in his debut for Jacobson at Saratoga in August 2024, he has been first or second in 12 of 13 starts since – including four stakes wins and a second to Mindframe in the Churchill Downs-G1 in May.

At Charles Town, Skippylongstocking made the lead, but was pressured through 6 furlongs in 1:13.51 as Banishing dropped back to sixth. Komorebino Omoide (Jpn) took over on the final run up the backside as Skippylongstocking backed up and Banishing attacked. Midway on the turn, he led by a length and made it more as Willy D's tried to rally late but settled for second. Gould's Gold wound up third after 1⅛ miles in 1:53.26.

A 5-year-old Ghostzapper gelding out of the A.P. Indy mare Dowager, Banishing won for the ninth time and pushed his lifetime earnings to $1,890,709.

■ Skippylongstocking's trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. doubled on the night – taking the Charles Town Oaks-G2 with Indy Bay and the Misty Bennett Pink Ribbon with Mystic Lake.

Racing for C2 Racing Stable, Paul Braverman and Timothy Pinch, Indy Bay stalked the pace, drifted wide off the turn and ran down two rivals to score by 1¾ lengths over favorite Vodka With a Twist as Andrea stayed for third in the field of 10.

Bred in Kentucky by Frankfort Park Farm, the daughter of Take Charge Indy sold for $40,000 as a weanling in 2022 and brought $19,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September before failing to meet her reserve as a 2-year-old at the Texas Thoroughbred Association sale in April 2024. After two starts at Oaklawn Park for trainer Thomas Vance and owners Linda and Michael Mazoch, she joined her current connections in time to win a Gulfstream Park maiden in March. She added two more wins including the Jersey Girl Stakes at Saratoga in June and went to Charles Town off a third in the Victory Ride-G3 at Saratoga July 3.

From the inside post, she pulled off the rail to find a spot in third on the backstretch, spun from the three to the seven path off the final turn for Irad Ortiz Jr., then leaned in before straightening up and prevailing. The $426,000 winner's share

of the $750,000 race lifted Indy Bay to $675,000 for her career – almost all of it this year.

Racing for C2, Stefania Farms and BAG Racing Stables, last year's Charles Town Oaks winner Mystic Lake led throughout in the $250,000 Pink Ribbon, ousting 1-2 favorite Vahva by 3 lengths for Gaffalione.

Locals find ways to shine

Owner David Raim, Charles Town-based trainer Jeff Runco and local jockey Arnaldo Bocachica teamed up to win two stakes.

The Sky is Falling captured the $75,000 Sadie Hawkins for West Virginia-bred fillies and mares, rallying from last of five early to score by 2 lengths. The daughter of Cupid and the Half Ours mare Miss Henny Penny won her third consecutive race and 12th overall, while adding a second Sadie Hawkins. She won the 7-furlong stakes in 2022 and was third in 2023. Bred by Catherine Jennings and Scott Mallory, the dark bay cost $40,000 as a yearling at Keeneland January in 2020. The latest win pushed her to $407,330 in earnings.

Two races later, Duncan Idaho won the $40,000 Last Enchantment to extend his winning streak to five. Bred by John McKee, the son of Fiber Sonde lived up to his 1-5 favoritism while winning by 1½ lengths over six rivals in the 4½-furlong overnight stakes for West Virginia-breds. The win, his 15th in 22 starts, lifted his career bankroll to $374,133 and continued the family excellence established by stakes-winning full-siblings Late Night Pow Wow, Overnight Pow Wow and Muad'dib.

Overnight Pow Wow came up a nose short of matching her brother's stakes score when she was second in the $40,000 Autumn late on the card. Party Time for Me, a 20-1 shot racing for owner/trainer/breeder Anthony Grigsby, rallied from sixth early to nail the 1-5 favorite in the final yards. Joe Stokes rode the daughter of Weave It to Me and the Windsor Castle mare Party N the Palace.

One race later, Robert Cole's Teachintherelease repeated in the $75,000 Frank Gall Memorial for trainer Stephen Murdock. Bred by John A. Casey, the Windsor Castle gelding led throughout and scored by 2¼ lengths for jockey Carlos Lopez at even money. The winner won for the 12th time (to go with 10 seconds) while building his career earnings to $378,262. ■

From top: The Sky is Falling rallies from far back to win the Sadie Hawkins for David Raim and Jeff Runco; Duncan Idaho takes the Last Enchantment for the same connections; Banishing wins the Charles Town Classic; Indy Bay captures the Charles Town Oaks.

RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

A Decade of the Thoroughbred Makeover

LARGEST RETRAINING COMPETITION IN NORTH AMERICA TURNS 10

By Kristen Kovatch Bentley

Few of us are lucky enough to experience one of those moments in which we realize we just might have started a movement. Kirsten Green, executive director of the Retired Racehorse Project, is one of those lucky few, and the moment came in the early months of 2015, when she was the administrator for the organization under founder Steuart Pittman. The RRP had just announced the move of its Thoroughbred Makeover, first run as a pilot invitational at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course, to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, and the opening of the competition to any approved trainers who wanted to get involved.

"I remember being at Maryland Horse Expo," Green said. "My phone was getting all of the notifications every time somebody paid a registration fee. And I was just looking at Steuart with my mouth open."

That decision to move the Makeover from a regional invitational to a national competition might just have been one of the most influential moves in Thoroughbred aftercare in the past decade: since 2015, the Thoroughbred Makeover has directly impacted more than 5,500 horses, increased the value of horses at the point of retirement from racing by 94 percent, and led to the investment of more than $50 million in the care and retraining of horses headed to the competition – mitigating the financial burden on aftercare organizations.

The event has evolved over the years, codifying a thorough rulebook, implementing an arrival exam and standard of health and wellness for equine athletes, and adding competition avenues for team entries and former broodmares. Past competitors have ranged from the unraced to Breeders' Cup winners, seven-figure yearlings to blue-collar warhorses, and everything in between. The event has become a gathering for not only those with professional or personal interests in Thoroughbred aftercare, but for the racing and breeding industries to cheer on and support horses beyond racing.

The Thoroughbred Makeover has done all of this in just a decade, produced by a grassroots organization that receives no institutional funding. While its measured impact is undeniable, the more anecdotal effects of the event leave their mark on the sport horse and racing industries.

The RRP's tagline is "increasing demand for Thoroughbreds beyond racing," and to that end, the Thoroughbred Makeover is paramount. Not only does the event provide competition across 10 disciplines for several hundred horses each year, but it inspires hundreds, if not thousands, more equestrians to partner with Thoroughbreds for their next competitive or recreational partners. Creating that inspiration, however, it not as simple as "build a competition and they will come."

"It's been an evolution," said Green. "The aspects of the event that we've added are all for the betterment of the breed. We've been able to turn criticisms into positive changes."

One such criticism came from observations of horses in the early years of the event that were not in peak body condition. Since the event was meant to showcase the breed as a premier equine athlete, as well as fight the common equestrian stereotype that Thoroughbreds are hard keepers (and that it's

SARAH K. ANDREW

In 2013, with a grant from Dr. Carolyn Karlson, RRP created the inaugural Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, which took place at Pimlico Race Course and featured 26 trainers and horses before hundreds of spectators.

acceptable for hard keepers to look a little thin), the organization moved immediately, with the assistance of consulting veterinarian Dr. Shannon Reed, to create and implement an arrival exam, setting a standard for body condition and soundness – and to provide participating trainers with the tools and education they needed to achieve this standard.

That standard applies to the competition itself, as well.

"We've never set what I believe to be an unachievable bar," said Green. "Competition tests are set at a level that's attainable in 10 months, but a level where you can't just casually participate either. That goes back to our desire to elevate and showcase the breed – we want people to come out, look around, and say, 'You mean to tell me these are all Thoroughbreds?' rather than have horses out here reinforcing all of the negative stereotypes we've come to associate with the breed: they're untrainable, they're too fast, they're not versatile."

Not every horse is a good fit for the Makeover model; some horses need more time to transition into careers beyond racing. (Eligibility criteria does give horses a full year of available time to rehabilitate or decompress before entering retraining.) Similarly, not every equestrian may be a good fit to participate. To Green, that's OK.

"There is a Thoroughbred for everybody, but the Makeover is designed for a specific set of circumstances at a specific point in a Thoroughbred's life cycle. That's not going to be for everybody at any given time – the point of the Makeover is to showcase the versatility and the trainability."

From a purely dollars-and-cents perspective, the Thoroughbred Makeover has increased the value of horses retiring from racing: data collected at the time of event horse registration has indicated a 94-percent increase in purchase price (adjusted for inflation) since 2015. Beyond this somewhat clinical view at the event's impact on the racing industry, however, lies an industry-wide shift in thinking about Thoroughbred aftercare.

"We've seen movement and understanding that aftercare does not need to be a purely charitable endeavor," said Green. "If you take care of your horses, appropriately time their retirement from racing, and have a plan in place for their transition, your horses can not only be worth more money in a second career, but there is an entire community of people who know what they're doing to develop these horses and want to be part of the next piece of their story."

> "We've seen movement and understanding that aftercare does not need to be a purely charitable endeavor."
>
> *– Kirsten Green*

ERIN GILLMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

Angela Carmitchel, trainer of last year's Thoroughbred Makeover Grand Champion Big Fame, received a big check from (presenting from left to right): Cathy Shircliff (Churchill Downs), Erin Halliwell (Thoroughbred Charities of America) and the Retired Racehorse Project's Kirsten Green.

The Makeover provides a unique opportunity for former connections – the breeders, owners, trainers and all who touch Thoroughbreds as racehorses – to connect with the equestrians responsible for those horses for the rest of their lives. In some cases, connections are finding that they can retain the ownership of those horses and work with reputable Makeover trainers to develop horses for the competition and beyond. Some racing connections offer incentives or other means to support former horses through the initial transition, and formal programs like the RRP's Makeover Champions offer a framework to show public support of the horses as well.

At a time where the racing industry faces a crossroads as far as its social license, the Thoroughbred Makeover provides a key opportunity to showcase the way the industry takes care of its equine athletes. With more routes to retirement than ever – the landscape includes far more than just the non-profit organizations that adopt horses out to new homes – the Makeover represents a culmination of a decade of increased awareness of aftercare.

While RRP staffers work hard year-round to produce educational content and provide additional services in support of the aftercare industry, the reality is that, especially as a small grassroots organization, the Thoroughbred Makeover takes the lion's share of staff time and energy, as well as funding, to produce. To better prioritize the organization's goals within the framework of increasing demand for Thoroughbreds beyond racing, the organization recently undertook a strategic planning process, surveying constituents, interviewing key stakeholders across the racing and equestrian industries, and convening board and staff members for discussion and planning exercises.

"With the amount of time we've spent this year reflecting on 10 years of Makeover and 15 years of the RRP, there are still so many things that Steuart wanted to do in the early years that are still wide open for us to explore and make our impact," Green said. "We can almost look at it as being a victim of our own success: we have this thing, the Makeover, that needed to be kept going and cultivated and continue delivering the product that people had become accustomed to, and that took everything that we had."

The Makeover will continue to evolve to better meet the needs of the industries it serves, on the sport horse and racing sides, but first and foremost, it will seek to continue to serve the horse.

"We've done a lot to elevate the horsemanship around the breed," Green said. "We've made it clear through the Makeover that this is what your Thoroughbreds can look like in sport. That wasn't necessarily part of our original impetus, but it's really stuck, and it will continue to be a big part of what we do going forward."

There are still some tough questions to answer and work to be done. The value of horses at retirement has risen, but the subsequent resale market has not followed the same trajectory for example. Without that demand at a value in which knowledgeable equestrians can continue to take on more horses, the greater ecosystem for Thoroughbreds beyond racing isn't sustainable.

But when looking back at the impact made over the past decade by the innovative approach of the Thoroughbred Makeover, it's hard not to be hopeful that the Retired Racehorse Project will find a way. ■

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F. o/o **Sea Gazer**
32 days old
Bred by Scott Miller

F. o/o **Whisper to Mama**
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Motor Skills

RACER TURNED JOCKEY, CONNER RETIRES AFTER 1,272 WINS, MAJOR INJURY

By Paul Halloran ■ Photographs by Equi-Photo, Inc.

Tyler Conner grew up with horse racing in his blood, but not his soul.

It was a different kind of racing that stole his heart as a child and never let go, until he realized that he needed a better plan for his life, or at least one less hazardous one. A few broken backs, fractured wrist, concussions and seizures will do that.

"I was 19 years old and I figured it was probably time to figure out my life a little bit," Conner said of ending his career as a motocross racer while still a teenager.

Twelve years later, he's not positive he made the right call.

"I regret it, in a way, because I feel like I left something on the table in that sport," Conner said. "But it is what it is and I made a career doing something else, so it's OK."

Now that second career is over, and this time the decision was made for him.

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Conner's father, John, is a horse trainer and farrier. His mother, Sandra, won 274 races as a jockey and has worked as an exercise rider and steward at Delaware Park. Tyler spent plenty of time around the racetrack growing up, but never caught the bug.

"I'd always go to the races, but I never really paid much attention to what was going on and I really didn't care that much for it," Conner said.

As a boy, he was singularly focused once his father bought him a motocross bike for Christmas when he was 5. For the next 14 years, motocross came first . . . and second . . . and third.

"It's literally the only thing I did growing up," Conner said. "I didn't play any school sports. I didn't do anything with horses. I just rode my motorcycle and bicycles. I love it. There's nothing really like it. It's hard to explain to people that aren't in the sport, but it's very freeing to just go ride your motorcycle. It's the greatest thing."

Conner started competing in motocross races when he was 8, and if that seems young, he could have been considered a late bloomer.

"You can race at 4 years old. It's pretty wild," he said. "I rode for a few years before I started racing. And then it took me a while to figure it out. I didn't get good 'til I was a teenager."

Conner competed in the Mid-Atlantic and in Florida in the winter. He dropped out of high school and got his GED, so he was basically a full-time motocross racer throughout his teens. He said he got "pretty lucky" when it came to injuries, despite damaging his wrist and shoulder and suffering multiple head injuries. He broke his L3 and T1 vertebrae in consecutive years, the latter injury requiring him to be taken out of Blue Diamond MX track in Newark, Del., in a helicopter in what would not be his last med-flight.

"I was having seizures on the track and I had a really bad concussion," said Conner, who then had plenty of time to consider his future. "I had to take five or six months off anyway. I didn't really have any job opportunities lined up. All I had planned on doing is riding motorcycles in some fashion."

It was at that point he decided to switch his means of professional transportation from two wheels to four legs.

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Conner recorded his 1,000th win July 9, 2022, aboard My Dixie Lass at Parx Racing, and celebrated at his home track at Penn National. Seven times in his 12-year career he won 100-plus races in a year.

Conner had worked for his father as a groom and owned a few horses, so when he was forced into a career change, he chose exercise rider.

"I figured I would start galloping," he said. "About five or six months after I got hurt, I sat on my first horse. My dad taught me how to ride and my mom was a rider, so I learned a lot from them. My parents wanted me to ride for a long time."

Eight months later, on June 14, 2014, Conner got a leg up on Grab Your Torch in the sixth race at Penn National. It was the first race of the jockey's career and the last for the horse, who finished sixth and fell after the finish line, providing a harbinger of a race 11 years in the future.

"She just collapsed after the race," Conner said. "Things weren't going well when I started. I just needed to learn."

It took Conner 40 starts to record his first win, but he finally got his picture taken when Love Talk scored Aug. 1, 2014, at Penn National.

"I really enjoy riding good horses and riding for people that I care about or I'm close to. But the rest of the business is very, very tough."

–Retired jockey Tyler Conner

"That's embarrassing," he said. "Obviously, I was riding horses just to ride horses, just to get my feet wet and learn a lot. I think it was a good, humbling experience."

Conner was a quick study, winning 39 more races that year and a career-best 168 in 2015. He took his tack to Southern California in 2017 and 2018 and held his own, with a 473-42-51-58 record at Santa Anita and Del Mar combined.

"I didn't stay, but I feel like I maybe did better than expected coming from where I came from," Conner said. "I took a big chance going there. Obviously, nobody knew who I was. California is a great place. Santa Anita is still my favorite track to ride at."

Conner won his first graded stakes, the Grade 3 Eddie D at Santa Anita, aboard Mr. Roary in 2017, and he retained the mount in the Breeders' Cup Mile for trainer George Papaprodromou.

"That was a lot of fun," he said. "I'm really thankful that George and the owners let me ride that horse in the Breeders' Cup. Obviously, they could have taken me off in a heartbeat, but they let me ride him, and that was really cool. I'm very thankful for that."

Conner would win three more graded stakes in his career, including the Penn Mile-G2 in June 2022 with 83-1 longshot Wow Whata Summer for trainer Chuck Lawrence, whose My Dixie Lass gave Conner his 1,000th win five weeks later at Parx Racing.

"Another crazy thing that was not expected," Conner said of the Penn Mile win, in which he beat odds-on favorite Annapolis, who went on to run in the Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 that year. "That whole day was a lot of fun. A lot of little guys like myself don't get the chances on those days. To beat that Breeders' Cup horse was really fun. I don't know why, but those days I feel like I ride better. It definitely makes you feel good."

Conner's mounts earned $3,375,078 in 2022, his best year ever. He won the Remington Oaks-G3 with Saffie A. Joseph Jr. trained Honor D Lady in 2023, but saw his win total decrease to 119. The slide continued in 2024, when he won only 37 races in 345 starts and broke his leg in the fall.

The life of a jockey is a grind, but when you constantly struggle to make weight, as Conner did, it can be mentally taxing to the point of questioning whether it's all worth it, especially when the results aren't good.

"It's just a tough game," Conner said. "I've always struggled with my weight since I started. That was always the hardest part for me. No matter what I did, I was never light enough. So that part really burned me out. And when you're struggling, it's even worse. When you're not winning, it's a very, very tough business to be in. People lose respect for you and when you're cold nobody gives you chances."

Trying to come back from injury as the calendar turned to 2025, Conner was not in a good place.

"I was really struggling to lose weight," he said. "And then I went through a couple of weeks where I wasn't winning. And you start riding bad because you're second-guessing everything and you're forcing things. And I got very. . . I wouldn't say very depressed. I never thought about harming myself or anything like that, but it makes you just want to quit. You just want to give up and find something else to do. It's very hard."

His long-time agent, Marty Salvaggio, a former jockey, can relate.

"Pulling weight as much as he did and the ups and downs of the business wear on you after awhile," Salvaggio said. "If it was all smooth sailing he would have done it forever. Pulling weight and having to watch what you eat all the time, it gets to you. You're constantly judged. It's a win business only. You're always under the microscope. That wears on you, too."

It seems almost surprising Conner was still riding in the second half of 2025 as a 31-year-old.

"I thought when I got to a thousand [wins], I would be done," he said. "I told myself I wouldn't ride past 30 when I started. So it was always in my mind just because I didn't truly love it. I enjoy winning. I really enjoy riding good horses and riding for people that I care about or I'm close to. But the rest of the business is very, very tough. Everybody wants to fire you first. It's a very cut-throat business. It was never what I truly wanted to do growing up. But I really want to win and I care about riding a lot, even if I don't show it. I really do care."

Right to the end.

Tyler Conner and Fierce and Strong return after winning the Wolf Hill Stakes on Monmouth Park's Haskell Day undercard July 19.

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Conner had a big win on Haskell Day July 19 at Monmouth, delivering a perfectly timed ride aboard Fierce and Strong to win the Wolf Hill Stakes, a $102,000 turf sprint. Finishing second was favorite Nothing Better, with Irad Ortiz Jr. aboard – a replay of the Penn Mile when Ortiz rode Annapolis.

"That was really cool," Conner said. "I had a great trip. Once I tipped him out, I was pretty confident I'd win the race, to be honest. But I did beat a very good horse that day. Nothing Better is quite a nice turf horse."

Conner rode the Monday and Tuesday (July 21 and 22) cards at Presque Isle Downs and one night after the races he bought an engagement ring for his girlfriend, Lucy Houle, a former trainer.

They met in 2014 when he picked up a mount for her as an apprentice in the last race on a rainy Saturday night at Penn National. Josefina finished last in that race, but when Houle claimed Dancing Sparks – the first horse Conner ever rode for his father – in 2015, Conner appeared at the barn the next morning with apples and carrots. Ten years later, he was preparing to show up with different carats.

At Colonial Downs in Virginia later in the week, he rode four races Thursday (July 23) and had three mounts Friday. He finished second on Spurs Up in the fourth race and fourth on Kirin in the fifth. In the seventh, a 5½-furlong maiden special weight on the turf, he rode Stanza for trainer Lizzie Merryman.

"I really liked my horse," Conner said. "I know Liz liked him. He ran a good second in his first start."

Stanza broke last and was still sixth when Conner made his move.

"I saw an opening around the middle of the turn and thought I could get through," he said. "There were a couple of horses I wanted to follow, that maybe could give me a seam somewhere. So I tried to commit early to a position where I thought I could get through."

There was a seam and then there wasn't, mainly due to Montador and jockey Francisco Arrieta angling out into the path of Stanza and putting Conner in an impossible spot.

"I was screaming at him to try to let him know that I was there, not to keep coming out," Conner said. "And then it happened so quick, there was no real time for me to get out of

that position. His horse ducked out. There were three horses on my outside, so there wasn't a lot of space. I couldn't really push anybody out of the way to make room. I was just in a bad spot. And the rest is history."

Montador was disqualified from the win and placed last, Arrieta was suspended 15 days, and Stanza walked away with only superficial injuries. Conner said he remembers everything until he hit the turf. His next recollection is waking up on the track, unable to move his arms or legs.

"It's really weird. Honestly, the whole time I was very calm," he said. "I thought my arms were straight up in the air because from being on the horse, they were in front of me and that's how my mind remembered them. I asked the EMTs, 'Where are my hands?' I thought they were straight up in the air, but they were actually on the ground. I wasn't panicking or scared. I was just letting them do their job. I thought I'd be freaking out a little more than I was."

Conner was taken by medical helicopter to Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond. At home in Palmyra, Pa., Houle was watching on her phone as she ate lunch. She saw her boyfriend go down and it looked very bad. She picked up Conner's father and headed for Richmond, a three-and-a-half-hour drive that heavy traffic turned into five hours.

En route, they got limited information from the hospital, only that Tyler was in the emergency room. And he was alive.

"We knew that he was not doing well, that his condition was serious," said Houle, who grew up in Arcadia, Calif., and moved to Pennsylvania when she was in her early 20s. "We were told that he said that he couldn't move. He wasn't able to move before they took him off the racetrack. That was obviously very concerning."

Conner fractured his C1 vertebra, but within an hour he started to regain some movement in his legs and arms. He felt a lot of pain in his arms, which Houle took as a good sign.

"If something hurts, the nerves are trying to do something," she said. "That was the first thing he said. 'You can't touch me. It really hurts.' That was hard for him because he was having nerve pain all over. But it was obviously a relief to know that he had movement, and even though he wasn't aware of what his feet or hands were doing, at least they were capable of moving."

Conner spent a week in the intensive care unit, but did not require surgery. He was up and walking within a few days, so he was sent home, as opposed to in-patient rehab. On Aug. 4, he announced his retirement on social media, with 1,272 wins to his credit. On Aug. 14, he gave Houle the ring. (She said yes.) He got his neck brace off Sept. 2.

JENNIFER FITCH / EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Tyler Conner, sans neck brace, at Penn National in September.

Relatively speaking, life is good.

"I hate going out this way, not on my own terms, but it's out of my control," said Conner, for whom the forced retirement was easier to take in light of his already considering quitting. "I'd much rather go out on a high or by my choice. But I almost feel relieved in a way that I don't have to worry about my weight anymore or the stress of the business. I have to move on. I am fairly confident that I will be back to normal at some point the way I'm progressing."

What "normal" looks like is still to be determined, as is his professional future. He has an offer to work for 1/ST Racing and he is considering attending stewards' school. Prior to getting hurt he may have been disillusioned with his career, but his affinity for the sport remains.

"The business is very tough, but I do care about it. I want racing to thrive," he said. "I want the horsemen to be taken care of. I want the horses to be taken care of. In the end, it's all about the horses. I do care about the game, and I want to see it do well."

Plenty of people hope the same for him. ■

2026 Maryland Broodmare Incentive Program

Get back 20% of your purchase price on NEW Maryland Broodmares

To Qualify:

Mares foaling in 2026 must be purchased from a recognized public auction. The purchased mare must not have foaled in Maryland the previous two years and must be in foal for 2026 at the time of purchase. The mare must drop her 2026 foal* in Maryland and be bred to a Maryland stallion** in the 2026 breeding season.

Incentive Structure

20% reimbursement of purchase price (with a minimum qualifying purchase of $5,000 and a maximum payout per mare of $6,000). Limited reimbursement up to $10,000 to one individual/entity. Program limited to a total of $50,000 for 2026 incentives.

Application Requirements

- **Invoice** from a recognized sales company and proof of payment
- Copy of mare's **registration papers**
- **Vet certificate** confirming the mare is at least 45 days in foal
- Signed **Confirmation of Cover** from farm standing Maryland stallion
- Signed **Commitment to Program Terms** by applicant

Administration & Compliance: The program runs until the end of the 2026 breeding season. Available funds of $50,000 for 2026 applicants. Incentives will be paid on a first come, first served basis. A wait list will be created as fully completed and accepted applications are received in the mail. If a mare aborts or does not get in-foal, eligibility will be retained for the 2026 program if all other criteria are met. Ownership of mare cannot be transferred until program commitments are fulfilled.

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**Foal must be eligible to be registered Maryland-bred. **Must be a verified Maryland stallion*

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

My Spring with Smarty Jones

When I became a member of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission in June 1996, talk of slot machines or "expanded gaming opportunities" as they were called was already percolating among horsemen and track operators. The members of the commission, at that time F. Eugene "Fitz" Dixon, Paul Mills and I, received instructions directly from Gov. Tom Ridge's office that we were to have no opinion and make no statements about the possibility of slot machines coming to racetracks in Pennsylvania.

All three commissioners were in favor of slots but our hands were tied and our lips were sealed. The governor's opinion about slots was a moving target. When Ridge was tapped to be the first Secretary of Homeland Security after 9/11, Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker moved into the governor's mansion and gave us hope. In his first public address laying out his vision, he spoke the words, "I will continue Governor Ridge's policy of opposition to expanded gaming in Pennsylvania." Of course, three weeks later, he made a speech welcoming the Power Ball lottery to the Keystone State.

In 2003 a new governor, Democrat Ed Rendell, came into office. Lawrence Kent, a Philadelphia businessman and friend of the new governor, replaced the retiring Paul Mills on the commission and everything changed. During his campaign Rendell had consulted Dixon, been convinced of the wisdom of slot machines at the racetracks, and was fully onboard. He just needed to convince the anti-gambling factions in the middle of the state that "expanded gaming" was of benefit to the commonwealth. This was an uphill battle among the ultra-conservative and often evangelical Christian voters in the state's mostly rural heart.

As 2003 wore on, Rendell, at the urging of the equine industry, worked hard to hammer out the language to allow slot machines at the state's racetracks but still protect live racing and make sure purses and the breeders' fund would share in the largesse created by this infusion of gambling dollars. Once the details were roughed out it was up to Rendell to sell it to the legislature. This was far from a done deal.

Late in 2003 a 2-year-old Pennsylvania-bred colt named Smarty Jones broke his maiden at Philadelphia Park (now Parx Racing) in a maiden race for a purse of $23,560 by nearly 8 lengths and he quickly followed up with a win in the restricted $56,100 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes, also at Philadelphia Park, by 15 lengths.

He started his 3-year-old season in 2004 with another powerhouse 5-length win in Aqueduct's Count Fleet Stakes, prompting Kentucky Derby talk. Owners/breeders Roy and Pat Chapman and trainer John Servis shipped Smarty Jones to Oaklawn Park in Arkansas in hopes of using the track's series of 3-year-old races as preps.

Smarty Jones won the Southwest, Rebel and Arkansas Derby-G2, and the excitement about him reached Pennsylvania. His fame had grown among horsemen and horseplayers but had not yet reached the public. Most people thought of him as a "nice little Pennsylvania-bred, but, come on, those kinds of horses don't win the Kentucky Derby." How quickly they had forgotten Lil E. Tee, the winner in 1992.

And that's exactly what Smarty Jones did. He passed pacesetting Lion Heart in the stretch to win the Derby by 2¾ lengths. Smarty Jones became the poster child for racing and breeding in Pennsylvania. His trainer, a "Philly Park kind of guy" and his owners, local car dealers, were embraced by every Pennsylvanian. Roy, wheelchair bound and on oxygen, was a "gamer" who attended the races despite his infirmities, and Servis became the spokesman for all the people in racing who weren't trust-funders and millionaires.

Guess who else noticed – Rendell. He quickly realized that, in Smarty Jones and his team, he had the vehicle that might carry the slot-machine legislation across the finish line and onto his desk for signing. The governor and first lady attended the Preakness and Dixie and I and Larry Kent and his wife were the escorts.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (3)

KIM PRATT

The Smarty Jones impact went in all directions in 2004, including trainer John Servis meeting the media, fans turning out to watch him train, and billboards along the highway.

The Preakness was a blast. Rendell and his wife Midge (a federal appeals court judge) were completely and totally engaged in the spirit of the event. We accompanied them all day until it was time for the saddling of the Preakness horses on the turf course. The governor asked us to accompany Mrs. Rendell to the saddling area as he was being taken off to meet with Frank Stronach, the owner of the track. Of course there was security. Large, plain-clothed Pennsylvania state troopers were never out of sight. The Flyers were playing in the Stanley Cup playoffs that day and someone idly wondered how they were doing. One of the large men spoke into his shirt cuff and then reported that the Flyers were winning 3-2 in the second period.

When we returned to the box to watch the race, Rendell was already there. Dixie ended up next to him. He seemed very pensive. He was sitting on the edge of his seat, leaning forward with his head in his hands so Dixie asked him if he was feeling all right. He looked up and said, "You can't believe how much is riding on this race." It was a simple reminder that the slots legislation hung in the balance.

History records that Smarty Jones won the Preakness by the widest margin in the annals of racing's Middle Jewel. After suitable celebration, including being on the presentation stand with two governors, Rendell's team departed and we were off to Belmont to watch a legend in the making.

Smarty Jones had become such a star that, on the Saturday before the Belmont, 8,500 Pennsylvanians showed up at Philadelphia Park at 9 a.m. to watch him work out in his final preparation for the Triple Crown. The horse was on everyone's mind and his name was on everybody's lips. Servis had become a media darling. He came to embody the real people of the racing industry and helped it to be seen as an industry that deserved the boost from slot machines. The political machine in Harrisburg rode the wave with hands and heels.

We all know how the Belmont ended. Birdstone collared Smarty Jones in the final strides to spoil the Chapmans' impossible dream. We all left Belmont chastened for what might have been but, in a way, it seemed, Smarty Jones had done his job. The weight of 5,000 slot machines had wearied him in the final strides, but within a few days the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 71 of 2004 – the Race Horse Development and Gaming Act – legalizing alternative gaming at racetracks. In its 21 years, slot-machine gambling has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to purses and breeders' awards for all horses racing in Pennsylvania. Without Smarty Jones that doesn't happen.

Thank you, Roy and Pat Chapman. Thank you, John Servis and, especially, Thank you, Smarty Jones. ■

In August, Smarty Jones was inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame at Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

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Ryehill stars shine at Hall of Fame ceremony

Caveat, Smart Angle are newest inductees

By Ali Çetinok

Jim McCue

Siblings Dan and Barbara Ryan (center, holding banner with Maryland Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Steve Connelly on right) and Jim Ryan (second from right) celebrate Caveat and Smart Angle at Timonium with family, friends and voting members of the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame.

More than 40 years after they raced for breeder Ryehill Farm, Eclipse Award winner Smart Angle and Belmont Stakes-G1 hero Caveat were honored at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium Friday, Aug. 29.

They joined the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame in a ceremony that brought back memories for the children of Jim and Eleanor Ryan.

For Dan Ryan, whose horses race under the stable name Smart Angle, the induction of Smart Angle the filly returned him to a time when his parents' horses competed in major races across the country.

"What a day, isn't it? It's going down memory lane," he said, recalling how his mother's Ross Valley Farm sat just minutes from Timonium. "She's a really special horse, and she was my mom's favorite horse and I think because she was my mom's favorite horse, she became our favorite horse."

The daughter of Quadrangle and the Ryans' $36,000 broodmare purchase Smartaire earned that devotion through toughness and consistency. In 1979, she raced twice a month from July through October, capturing six stakes in a seven-race stretch for Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens. She claimed Grade 1 victo-

Homebred Smart Angle was Ryehill Farm's first Eclipse Award winner when taking 2-year-old filly honors in 1979.

Bob Coglianese (2)

Caveat wrapped up a 21-start career in less than a year with a victory in the Belmont Stakes-G1, and followed as a leading sire in Maryland.

ries in the Selima, Frizette, Matron and Spinaway to earn the 2-year-old filly championship – the first of back-to-back titles for Ryehill.

"She wasn't the biggest filly in the world," Dan Ryan said. "But when she hooked another horse, I'm betting on her to win and she did. She never won by much. She always won by like a head or a neck. She was a beautiful filly, but certainly not robust. The next year, Heavenly Cause was the big strapping gray, the complete opposite. But Smart Angle, that's the one."

Dan's sister Barbara Ryan simply called her "classy," the kind of filly who seemed destined for greatness.

By the end of her career, Smart Angle had seven wins, four seconds and a third in 17 starts, earning $414,217. Her final start at 2, the Demoiselle Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct, saw her lose by a nose to future Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Genuine Risk. As a broodmare, Smart Angle produced 13 winners, including graded stakes victor Houston, a $2.9 million sales yearling.

The Eclipse Award trophy still holds a place of honor.

"You think, 'Are you kidding me?' Two-year-old champion, Eclipse Award," Dan said. "Do you know what people would do for an Eclipse? It's sitting on my mantel. I reminisce about that."

Just a year after Smart Angle's championship, Ryehill Farm welcomed the birth of Caveat, a colt by Cannonade out of Cold Hearted, the Ryans' first stakes winner. His toughness was tested across 21 starts in less than a year, racing at 10 tracks and securing a place in history.

"He was a tough, gritty horse," Barbara said. "We were so young, looking at the pictures. I remember that Belmont. We won, and he picked me up [pointing at Dan], threw me over his shoulder, down to the winner's circle. I dropped my shoe and my other brother took my hat off. It was mortifying. We were so fortunate. So fortunate."

Also trained by Stephens and campaigned by Jim Ryan, August Belmont IV and Bob Kirkham, Caveat won three times as a 2-year-old in 1982 and earned a spot in the 1983 Kentucky Derby-G1 with a second in the Arkansas Derby-G1 and a win in the Derby Trial. Third behind Sunny's Halo at Churchill Downs, Caveat skipped the Preakness but won the Belmont. With Laffit Pincay Jr. aboard, he twice brushed the inside rail on the far turn, but still powered clear of Slew o' Gold by 3½ lengths. Also among those behind him was Maryland-bred Preakness-G1 winner Deputed Testamony.

Dan still treasures a memento from that summer.

"I still have Laffit Pincay's whip, leaning against my fireplace," he said. "Hearing Dad tell the story, Woody told the jockey, 'Take this horse back as far as you can, and then take him 5 lengths further back and when you turn the corner, unleash him.' We probably heard that a hundred times before. That's what he did."

Caveat retired after the Belmont with an injury but went on to stand at Windfields Farm in Chesapeake City, where he became one of the nation's top turf sires and a four-time leading sire in Maryland. His progeny included Awad, another Maryland-bred Hall of Famer, as well as Ops Smile, Timely Warning and Cefis. The dark bay died at age 15 in 1995.

The Ryan siblings agreed that growing up in the sport gave them a perspective they only fully appreciate now.

"As crazy as it sounds, it felt a little bit normal," Dan said of traveling the country for major stakes. Barbara added, "We didn't know any different."

She continued: "We've all been affiliated with the business for the last 30 years, and it was like catching lightning in a bottle; it just doesn't happen. Reminiscing about the experience, kind of reliving it, the racing was amazing, but it's the whole horse-racing atmosphere that makes it so special. Having no idea what it really takes to get to that level. We just didn't know. We know now."

The family learned a lot from Stephens during training hours, absorbing the details of a Hall of Fame barn.

"Going out to the track early in the morning, watching the really good horses work and kind of hanging around a trainer like Woody Stephens who had an aura about him," Dan said. "He was a horseman. I was on the periphery, just following my dad around."

The induction ceremony also provided a moment to reflect on Jim and Eleanor Ryan's influence on Maryland breeding as Jim was known for trusting his instincts.

"One of the things I remember my dad saying, that he honestly believed he had a sixth sense and he could see in the horse's breeding and where to go," said another son, Jim. "I just remember that, and I believe it."

Barbara agreed: "I believe it, too."

"So do I," Dan added.

With Smart Angle and Caveat enshrined alongside Awad and Heavenly Cause, Ryehill Farm counts four Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame members. When asked who might be next from their family's legacy, Dan admitted, "I don't think the horse is in the barn yet. But never say never."

Broodmare incentive program launched for 2026

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association is offering a broodmare incentive program for 2026. This program is designed to encourage broodmare buyers this year to bring new mares to Maryland to foal in 2026 and be bred back to Maryland stallions. The program will offer $50,000 in 2026 incentives to buyers/owners of broodmares that are new to Maryland. If the mare purchased meets the requirements, has an application filed and qualifies, the mare owner will get back 20 percent of the purchase price of the mare (maximum reimbursement up to $6,000).

"We are excited about this new broodmare purchase program because we want more mares and foals in Maryland," said Lisa Hofstetter, MHBA board member and owner of Northview Stallion Station, "We believe this program will be a valuable asset to the stallion farms and also be very helpful to small and large breeders alike who want to add mares to their broodmare band."

To qualify, a mare must be purchased from a recognized public auction and be in foal at the time of purchase. She must drop her 2026 foal in Maryland and be bred to a Maryland stallion in the 2026 breeding season. The mare must not have foaled in Maryland in the previous two years.

The incentive for the mare buyer/owner is a 20 percent reimbursement of purchase price (minimum qualifying purchase of $5,000, maximum reimbursement of $6,000 per mare). The reimbursement per one individual or entity is limited to $10,000.

The program runs through the end of the 2026 breeding season. The funds from the $50,000 incentive fund will be distributed on a first come, first served basis to the qualified applicants. ❧

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Benoit Photo

Splendora gets first stakes win at Del Mar

Splendora remained undefeated in three Del Mar starts with a commanding victory in the Tranquility Lake Stakes Sept. 1.

Part of an arsenal of top fillies for Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert, the 4-year-old daughter of Audible broke best of the field of six and went to the lead under Juan Hernandez. She zipped through fractions of :22.38, :46.10 and 1:09.95 to win by 5½ lengths while stopping the clock in 1:34.55 for 1 mile.

All three of Splendora's Del Mar wins have been by daylight – she scored by 3½ in her prior effort in a 6-furlong allowance July 24, and took a 6½-furlong allowance last November by 5½ lengths.

The Tranquility Lake was Splendora's her first non-graded try, and her first stakes win. Owned by Michael Talla's By Talla Racing, which purchased her for $125,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's July Sale in 2022, the dark bay has been battling top fillies and mares on the West Coast. In her lone start at 2, she finished second to stablemate and future multiple graded winner Kinza. Off for nearly 10 months, Splendora returned to win her next two, by a combined 11¼ lengths.

Splendora's stakes debut came last December in the La Brea Stakes-G1, a second to Grade 1 winner Kopion.

In her 2025 debut, Splendora suffered the worst defeat of her career when fourth behind Kopion in the Grade 2 Santa Monica; Baffert-trained Hope Road, winner of Saratoga's Ballerina Stakes-G1 this summer, was less than 3 lengths ahead of her in second. Splendora followed with seconds in Grade 2 contests, the Santa Maria and Santa Margarita, to stablemates Richi (Chi) and Seismic Beauty.

With her fourth victory, to go with four seconds, she boosted her earnings to $340,800.

Splendora was bred by Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group out of the stakes-winning Frost Giant mare Miss Freeze. Grant purchased Miss Freeze at the 2020 Keeneland November sale, with Splendora in utero, for $45,000. The mare's 2022 foal by Bernardini was born dead; she produced a colt in 2023 by Demarchelier (GB) named Oracle of Beaufort who was on the worktab at Fair Hill but has yet to start; and missed after a breeding with Mo Donegal in 2024. A $37,000 RNA when sent back to Keeneland in November 2023, Miss Freeze most recently delivered a Maryland-bred filly by Tiz the Law for The Elkstone Group in March and was bred back to National Treasure.

The mare has one other foal to race, 5-year-old daughter Firsttimeinforever (by Always Dreaming), a four-time winner and earner of $210,845. ❧

Magic Wallet cashes in with Dover score

Hoofprints, Inc.

The Divining Rod colt Magic Wallet, an impressive co-winner first-time out at Colonial Downs in his debut, was even more impressive in his second start when surging to victory in Delaware Park's $75,000 Dover Stakes for 2-year-olds Aug. 14.

Sent off the 7-5 favorite in a field of six under, the Bill Bayne colorbearer, breaking from the inside post, settled along the rail behind the early pace set by Max Capacity, then Majestic Blue, through even splits of :23.01 and :46.52. Victor Carrasco maneuvered Magic Wallet five wide as Majestic Blue opened a clear lead at the top of the stretch. With ground-covering strides, Magic Wallet caught and flew by the leader to win with ears pricked by 2¾ lengths. Final time for 6 furlongs over a track rated good was 1:12.07. The Maryland-bred $1 exacta with Majestic Blue (by Blofeld) paid $10.80.

The first stakes winner campaigned by Bayne, who co-bred the colt with friend Mike Coombs of Super C Racing, Magic Wallet has made his mark around the barn.

"He acts like an older horse with everything does," said trainer Claudio Gonzalez. "In the morning with galloping and in the barn, he just acts like an older horse. We have always really liked him and today he showed he could be a good one. I also think distance will not be a problem for him."

Magic Wallet finished in a dead heat for the win with Sometime going 5½ furlongs on the main track at Colonial July 25. The two victories have banked $73,000.

Bayne claimed Magic Wallet's dam In Dad's Wallet for $8,000 at Pimlico in 2012 as a 4-year-old. The daughter of Medaglia d'Oro won that day and went on to score four more times for Bayne, primarily in claiming company, before she was retired in the fall of 2013. Bayne bred eight foals out of In Dad's Wallet solely or in partnership. Magic Wallet is her fourth winner from six starters, and her first stakes winner.

When Coombs chose to cut back on his horse numbers, In Dad's Wallet, as well as the mare's two Divining Rod offspring, a yearling filly and her weanling colt, were offered at the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale. Bayne purchased the colt (Magic Wallet) for $3,500 and the filly (the unraced Empty Wallet) for $1,000. In Dad's Wallet, then 15, sold while not in foal for $1,000. Her last reported breeding was to a Massachusetts stallion in 2024. ❧

Equi-Photo, Inc.

Dazzling Dame shines in Sorority

Dazzling Dame handled her first two-turn test, going gate-to-wire as the favorite in the 1-mile $100,000 Sorority Stakes for 2-year-old fillies Aug. 17 at Monmouth Park.

Under Jevian Toledo, Dazzling Dame broke sharply from the inside, dictated the pace over five rivals through an opening quarter in :24, a half in :48.64 and three-quarters in 1:14.21. She led by 3 lengths as she straightened into the stretch, and held off Spitfire by 2 lengths. Sent out by trainer Brittany Russell for Respect the Valleys, Dazzling Dame completed the distance in 1:40.83.

It was the Girvin filly's second win as many starts. In her debut at Laurel Park June 27, a 5½-furlong Maryland-bred contest with four runners after five scratches, the bay went off as favorite, broke a step slow from the inside, angled out to take aim at the leader, and was confidently ridden by Toledo to a 5¾-length win.

Bred by Maria Haire, Dazzling Dame is the fifth foal, and third winner, out of the multiple stakes-placed Corinthian mare Awesome Dama. A winner at 5½ and 6 furlongs, Awesome Dama is related to Haire's former Maryland sire Eclipticalspraline, whose graded stakes-winning dam Ms. Mostly (by Copelan) is the granddam of Awesome Dama.

Dazzling Dame was offered three times at auction. A $50,000 RNA at the 2023 Keeneland November sale, she brought $65,000, on a bid by Tahoe Bloodstock, as a short yearling at the 2024 OBS winter mixed sale that January. The pinhook prospect then sold for $45,000 at the 2025 OBS March 2-year-old sale to her current owner.

Awesome Dama has a yearling filly by Pinehurst and delivered an Engage filly on Preakness Day May 17. ❧

Hollywood Walk scores in Andy Guest

Seeking her first stakes win, Hollywood Walk captured the $150,000 Andy Guest for fillies and mares at 5½ furlongs on the turf at Colonial Downs Aug. 9, adding to the flourishing female line developed by the late owner/breeder R. Larry Johnson.

The older half-sister to multiple Grade 1-winning millionaire Mindframe returned to her winning ways after a series of stakes efforts over the past year. Hollywood Walk was last of seven early, more than a dozen lengths behind pacesetting stakes-win-

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ning speedster Bosserati, who zipped through fractions of :22.40, :44.94 and :56.29.

As Bosserati began to give way, Hollywood Walk cut the corner around the turn and rallied up the rail. Her momentum took her to the front and she outfinished odds-on favorite Mrs. Gambolini by three-quarters of a length. The Mike Trombetta trainee paid $19. Her final time was 1:02.35, besting veteran turf sprinter Witty's time of 1:02.52 one race later.

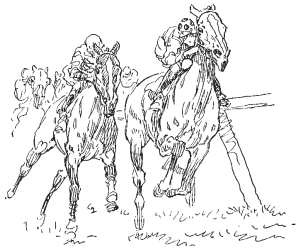
"I'm really happy that we finally got the win because I've had a couple seconds and thirds with her," said jockey Mychel Sanchez. "She has got a lot of heart. She always gives you everything she has. She's such a big mare – they do such a great job with her. I wanted to be on the rail right from the beginning because I knew [Bosserati] lugs out a little bit and I'd have room."

Racing for the Johnson estate after his death in February, Hollywood Walk recorded her sixth victory in 26 starts, 14 in stakes company She finished second in the 2024 Guest and Jameela, placed third in six stakes.

Her prior win came on Aug. 31, 2024, in a rich Colonial handicap in which she won a three-way photo with Mystic Seaport and Bosserati to pocket the winner's share of the $100,000 purse. With a record of 18 wins or placings, she has earnings of $482,731.

Coady Media

The 6-year-old daughter of Animal Kingdom is one of four winners from five foals of racing age for homebred stakes winner Walk of Stars. The Street Sense mare has foaled in Virginia since 2022. ❧



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in June 2025 at Maryland tracks

Ben's Cat Stakes

June 21. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, registered Maryland or Virginia-bred or Maryland or Virginia-sired. 6 fur., turf. 10 competed. (Closed with 35 nominations.) Winner: WHENIGETTOHEAVEN, by Street Magician. Breeder bonus: Estate of R. Larry Johnson ($13,500). Stallion bonus: Estate of R. Larry Johnson ($4,500). Second: Virginia-bred. Third: HAD TO HAVE HIM, by Force the Pass. Breeder bonus: Wes Carter ($2,250). Stallion bonus: Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC ($750).

Jameela Stakes

June 21. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland or Virginia-bred or Maryland or Virginia-sired. 6 fur., turf. 6 competed. (Closed with 28 nominations) Winner: LIFELOVENLAUGHTER, by Lemon Drop Kid. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($13,500). Stallion bonus: None. Second: ALLA BREVE, by Mendelssohn. Breeder bonus: Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC ($4,500). Stallion bonus: None. Third: CUT FROM CLASS, by Blame. Breeder bonus: Michael and Debbie Horning ($2,250). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Andrew E. Ali—Decorum: June 29, 4th race, $2,115.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Basic Miles: June 13, 6th race, $675.

Lorna L. Baker and Thomas H. Michaels Jr.—Third Tuesday: June 21, 9th race, $2,835/$945. ($3,780)

Barak Farm—Barbados Bulldog: June 27, 4th race, $1,417.50. Rapido Rosa: June 15, 4th race, $1,080; June 29, 9th race, $6,615. She Is Wisky: June 21, 1st race, $1,305. ($10,417.50)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Shkhara Fire: June 1, 8th race, $2,205; June 29, 7th race, $6,615. Thunder in Paris: June 13, 4th race, $1,080. ($9,900)

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: June 6, 2nd race, $832.50.

Barlar LLC—Align: June 28, 6th race, $540.

John Bashore and Albert Klerlein—Colonel Tully: June 20, 9th race, $472.50.

Joseph Besecker—Kilo Road: June 22, 8th race, $6,480.

Best A Luck Farm LLC and Best Foot Forward Holdings Inc.—Suremeanttoobe: June 20, 1st race, $6,075.

Teresa L. Beste—Navani: June 20, 3rd race, $6,480.

David Benjamin Bloom—Furious George: June 27, 7th race, $1,080.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Hot Boss: June 8, 6th race, $3,240/$1,080. Princess Clemmie: June 22, 1st race, $3,240/$1,080. ($8,640)

Bonita Farm—Fightnomoreforever: June 21, 3rd race, $1,080. Mamba Mindset: June 27, 6th race, $1,080. ($2,160)

Bonita Farm and Grandview Stable Inc.—Kobe's Hope: June 15, 9th race, $1,080.

Frank A. Bonsal Jr.—Holy Brick: June 8, 6th race, $1,080.

Matthew Bright—Brighty: June 13, 6th race, $1,350.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Canadian Bear: June 15, 7th race, $4,050. Great Moon: June 21, 9th race, $945. Mr. Supreme: June 28, 5th race, $2,835. ($7,830)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Tanka Tough: June 8, 3rd race, $540.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Post Time: June 28, 4th race, $13,500.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Pneumo Warrior: June 29, 2nd race, $1,057.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Mopo: June 29, 3rd race, $2,205.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: June 20, 8th race, $2,160.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Don't Tell Deren: June 7, 3rd race, $3,240. Holy Fit: June 1, 9th race, $1,080. Map to the Moon: June 8, 4th race, $540; June 21, 9th race, $472.50. Serendipitymonday: June 20, 1st race, $2,025. ($7,357.50)

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Esroh: June 8, 2nd race, $1,800. Secure's Hope: June 14, 9th race, $2,025. ($3,825)

Melissa Cantacuzene—Better Watch It: June 14, 7th race, $675.

Wes Carter—El Divino Nino: June 28, 8th race, $1,665. Had to Have Him: June 21, 6th race, $2,250. ($3,915)

Climax Stallions LLC—Pozo: June 8, 6th race, $540.

Clover Hill Farm Inc.—All Fruits Ripe: June 7, 9th race, $540. Naymar: June 28, 5th race, $1,012.50. ($1,552.50)

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Wicked Melissa: June 1, 2nd race, $540; June 27, 2nd race, $2,835. ($3,375)

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—Ariel Moon: June 28, 7th race, $675.

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: June 6, 7th race, $2,385.

Country Life Farm and Real Good Time LLC—Bill of Rights: June 20, 5th race, $3,915.

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Put a Rock On It: June 22, 6th race, $1,080.

Country Life Farm and Starr of Quality LLC—Fulmineo: June 21, 5th race, $1,260.

Daniel C. Crowley and Non Stop Stable—Haileysfirstnotion: June 6, 8th race, $2,520; June 29, 8th race, $2,520. ($5,040)

Dark Hollow Farm—Consultant: June 27, 1st race, $540. Stormy Hollow: June 15, 5th race, $2,835. ($3,375)

Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable LLC—Silver Trinket: June 14, 9th race, $6,075.

Rebecca B. Davis—Great Andrei: June 22, 8th race, $2,160.

John C. Davison—War Master: June 15, 8th race, $1,192.50.

Designated Hitters Racing—Daddy Yankee: June 8, 8th race, $675. Tik Tok Daddy: June 20, 6th race, $540; June 29, 1st race, $540. ($1,755)

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: June 15, 8th race, $7,155.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Just for Giggles: June 6, 6th race, $3,240. Nick's Notion: June 20, 3rd race, $1,080. ($4,320)

Flying H Stables LLC—Conceptualize: June 28, 7th race, $4,050. Tell 'Em I'm Comin: June 20, 7th race, $2,025. ($6,075)

Robert E. Gamber—I Can Do It: June 22, 2nd race, $1,305.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Song Time: June 14, 9th race, $1,012.50.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Gohn—Divine Swagger: June 8, 7th race, $1,350.
Green Mount Farm—Takethefifth: June 8, 9th race, $4,050.
Greycross Stable LLC—Bay Street: June 6, 7th race, $1,192.50; Seaside Road: June 1, 8th race, $1,102.50. ($2,295)
Maria M. Haire—Dazzling Dame: June 27, 4th race, $6,075. Elvis Himself: June 27, 9th race, $6,480. Neolithica: June 22, 2nd race, $3,915. Noah Chance: June 27, 9th race, $2,160. ($18,630)
Michael J. Harrison DVM—Cluck Cluck: June 7, 4th race, $6,615; June 27, 10th race, $2,385. ($9,000)
Nancy B. Heil—Karan's Notion: June 29, 8th race, $1,260.
Herringswell Stables Ltd.—Anotherhope: June 1, 2nd race, $1,080; June 29, 10th race, $3,240. ($4,320)
James Hibbert—Cactus: June 22, 3rd race, $1,080.
Hillwood Stable LLC—Brightshininglight: June 20, 7th race, $1,012.50.
Timothy N. Hopkins—Blo By'em: June 27, 5th race, $1,350.
Michael and Debbie Horning—Cut From Class: June 21, 8th race, $2,250. My Sugar Boo: June 13, 2nd race, $472.50. ($2,722.50)
Jagger Inc.—Big Tankness: June 20, 7th race, $6,075/$2,025. Rowsie Express: June 29, 7th race, $1,102.50. Sassafrassness: June 8, 2nd race, $5,400. Speedyness: June 28, 4th race, $2,250. ($16,852.50)
Estate of R. Larry Johnson—Medagooch: June 20, 4th race, $1,350. Mr Jefferson: June 20, 8th race, $1,080. Whenigettoheaven: June 21, 6th race, $13,500. ($15,930)
Hope Haskell Jones—Shine On Moon: June 7, 5th race, $1,102.50; June 22, 7th race, $6,480. ($7,582.50)
Patrick A. Kane—Madefromliona: June 8, 9th race, $1,350.
Harry Kassap LLC—High View: June 29, 5th race, $675.

UPCOMING

Maryland Horse Library Events

October 12 • 11 AM
Coffee with Author Brien Bouyea

A mid-morning talk by Brien Bouyea, Editor in Chief of the newly released book *The Racetracks of America From the Pre-Civil War Days to the 21st Century*. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will go toward the Maryland Horse Library.

October 27 • 4-6 PM
Native Dancer, The Grey Ghost

Native Dancer won 21 of 22 lifetime starts including the 1953 Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Learn about the colorful characters who made up his team and the story of his home and final resting place, Alfred G. Vanderbilt Jr.'s Sagamore Farm. Presented by Larry Smith and Joe Davies, Thoroughbred horsemen with deep roots in Maryland's horse industries.

November 10 • 4-6 PM
Riding To Arms

In recognition of Veterans Day, University of Maryland professor and author Charles Caramello will discuss his book Riding To Arms, A History of Horsemanship and Mounted Warfare.

December 19 • 11 AM-4 PM
A Holiday Open House!

Enjoy exploring our collection, meeting the staff, and celebrating the season.

REGISTER FOR EVENTS AT MARYLANDHORSE.COM/EVENTS

Timothy L. Keefe and MOM Stable—Tate's War Cry: June 13, 3rd race, $900.
Komlo LLC—Upsidedown Man: June 6, 1st race, $3,240.
Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Davyjonz: June 8, 1st race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)
Carl Lanier—Mosler Time: June 13, 8th race, $1,192.50. She's No Uncle: June 13, 9th race, $675. ($1,867.50)
Leaf Stable—Laddie Dance: June 1, 3rd race, $652.50. Tacit Value: June 13, 5th race, $1,057.50; June 27, 4th race, $2,025. ($3,735)
Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: June 28, 11th race, $4,500.
Little Man Farm—Chimney Sweep: June 20, 1st race, $1,012.50.
Eric Y. Long—No More Calls: June 7, 2nd race, $945.
James J. Loures—Hyteck Prince: June 14, 7th race, $1,350.
Make My Day Stable—Agent Kelly: June 8, 5th race, $675.
Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Dazzy: June 29, 7th race, $2,205.
J. W. Y. Martin Jr., Nancy M. Roberts, Suzie O. Owings and Brett D. Owings—Music On the Rocks: June 29, 6th race, $3,240/$1,080. ($4,320)
Elizabeth M. Merryman—Midnight Renegade: June 15, 11th race, $348.75.
Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: June 20, 8th race, $6,480.
Paige Mohan—A P M Notion: June 8, 4th race, $3,240/$1,080. ($4,320)
Murmur Farm—Bold Diversion: June 7, 8th race, $2,160; June 20, 4th race, $4,050. Imperial Spy: June 28, 12th race, $540. ($6,750)
Nancy Lee Farms—Worth a Dime: June 22, 7th race, $2,160.
No Guts No Glory Farm—Do It for Michael: June 28, 2nd race, $2,205. Green Eyed Monster: June 1, 5th race, $1,800. ($4,005)
Clarke Ohrstrom—Granuaile: June 15, 7th race, $1,350. Holey Moley: June 15, 1st race, $5,400/$1,800. ($8,550)
Old Dominion Thoroughbreds and KMR Racing Stable—Nothingbutbluesky: June 28, 3rd race, $6,075.
Frank A. Perri Jr.—Dwelling Legacy: June 1, 5th race, $5,400; June 22, 8th race, $1,080. ($6,480)
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Change My World: June 28, 2nd race, $1,102.50. Rapidity: June 7, 8th race, $1,080. ($2,182.50)
Casey Pinkard—Skittliedat: June 1, 9th race, $540; June 22, 1st race, $540. ($1,080)
Joel Politi—Biscuitwiththeboss: June 15, 10th race, $2,250. Jolly Boss: June 27, 9th race, $1,080. ($3,330)
Ponder Hill Inc.—Barzini: June 15, 6th race, $7,155.
Mr. and Mrs. A. John Price—Sheezahotmess: June 8, 4th race, $1,080; June 27, 2nd race, $945. ($2,025)
R.D.M. Racing Stable—Enduring Gold: June 14, 6th race, $1,102.50.
Vivian E. Rall—Great Idea: June 15, 6th race, $1,192.50.
Rolling Meadows Farm—Bond's Belle: June 14, 5th race, $945. Sweeterthanwhiskey: June 14, 3rd race, $1,350; June 29, 9th race, $2,205. ($4,500)
Timothy J. Rooney—B Determined: June 6, 3rd race, $540; June 28, 1st race, $652.50. My Brazilian Girl: June 27, 11th race, $6,075/$2,025. ($9,292.50)
Eric A. Rizer and Nancy M. Rizer—Chickin Lickin: June 21, 2nd race, $1,102.50. Ginger Snap: June 13, 5th race, $2,961. ($4,063.50)
Edward A. Seltzer and Justin J. Nixon—Lil Sebastian: June 1, 1st race, $3,240.
Timothy J. Shaw and Alicia Morgan—Bump N Run: June 1, 7th race, $7,560.
Janice Sinatra—S S Sinatra: June 1, 7th race, $1,260.
Sinatra Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding LLC—Autumn in Vermont: June 29, 10th race, $540.
St Augustine Manor LLC—Augustine Red: June 20, 4th race, $675.
James B. Steele Jr.—Divining Smile: June 29, 3rd race, $1,102.50.
Strongline Thoroughbreds LLC—Dancing Denae: June 7, 2nd race, $1,890.
Super C Racing Inc.—Buckin' Right: June 29, 10th race, $1,080. Dine and Dash: June 1, 5th race, $900. ($1,980)
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Alla Breve: June 21, 8th race, $4,500. Conquerthosewecan: June 21, 4th race, $6,615. Great Artist: June 7, 1st race, $3,240/$1,080. ($15,435)
The Elkstone Group LLC—Alvy: June 20, 5th race, $652.50. Joe: June 6, 3rd race, $1,080. Lifelovenlaughter: June 6, 7th race, $7,155; June 21, 8th race, $13,500. Prince of Portland: June 14, 2nd race, $472.50. ($22,860)
Thornmar Farm LLC—Admit Nothing: June 1, 4th race, $472.50. At First Sight: June 20, 2nd race, $697.50. Fair Trade: June 14, 5th race, $2,835. Fear Nothing: June 27, 5th race, $675. General Maximus: June 15, 5th race, $472.50. Heat Check: June 28, 5th race, $8,505. Joe the Jet: June 8, 8th race, $4,050. Please Marry Me: June 22, 6th race, $3,240. The Wolfman: June 22, 4th race, $540. Thosewerethedays: June 7, 2nd race, $4,050. Watch Out World: June 8, 5th race, $4,050. ($29,587.50)
Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: June 14, 8th race, $2,385.
2500 Determined Holdings—Grayson's Girl: June 21, 4th race, $2,205. New King: June 7, 8th race, $6,480. ($8,685)
Two Legends Farm—Hazelmoor Beach: June 22, 6th race, $540.
Two Legends Farm and Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Amie's Symphony: June 27, 11th race, $2,025.
Walter N. Vieser II—Intel Agent: June 29, 6th race, $810. Severn Run: June 1, 1st race, $1,080. ($1,890)
Estate of Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: June 20, 3rd race, $2,160.
Warning Drums Racing LLC—Arise My Love: June 1, 6th race, $2,115; June 27, 11th race, $1,012.50. ($3,127.50)
Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Thomas Johnson and Greenspring Mares LLC—Storm Force: June 7, 1st race, $540.
Winding Creek Farm—Whiskey and You: June 22, 4th race, $3,240.
Elke H. Zuckerwar—Hot On Your Heels: June 7, 9th race, $3,240/$1,080. ($4,320)
ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Let's Go Lando: June 14, 4th race, $1,057.50.

Stallion bonuses

ALLIANCE (Agent Kelly: June 8, 5th race, $225. Align: June 28, 6th race, $180. Fightnomoreforever: June 21, 3rd race, $360): Lawrence Karp—$765.
BANDBOX (Band Camp: June 15, 8th race, $2,385. The Wolfman: June 22, 4th race, $180): Northview Stallion Station—$2,565.
BARBADOS (Barbados Bulldog: June 27, 4th race, $337.50): Shamrock Farm.
BLOFELD (Better Watch It: June 14, 7th race, $225. Blo By'em: June 27, 5th race, $450. Bold Diversion: June 7, 8th race, $720; June 20, 4th race, $1,350. Bond's Belle: June 14, 5th race, $315. Dwelling Legacy: June 1, 5th race, $1,800; June 22, 8th race, $360. Heat Check: June 28, 5th race, $2,025. Imperial Spy: June 28, 12th race, $180): Blofeld Syndicate—$7,425.
BOURBON COURAGE (All Fruits Ripe: June 7, 9th race, $180. Arise My Love: June 1, 6th race, $705; June 27, 11th race, $337.50. Davyjonz: June 8, 1st race, $2,115. Music On the Rocks: June 29, 6th race, $1,080. Shine On Moon: June 7, 5th race, $367.50; June 22, 7th race, $2,160. Sweeterthanwhiskey: June 14, 3rd race, $450; June 29, 9th race, $735): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$8,130.
DIVINING ROD (Dazzy: June 29, 7th race, $735. Divine Swagger: June 8, 7th race, $450. Divining Smile: June 29, 3rd race, $367.50. Fear Nothing: June 27, 5th race, $225. Next Girl: June 6, 7th race, $795): Divining Rod Syndicate—$2,572.50.
EDITORIAL (Pozo: June 8, 6th race, $180): Climax Stallions LLC.
FIRST MONDAYS (Dancing Denae: June 7, 2nd race, $450. High View: June 29, 5th race, $225. Mr. Supreme: June 28, 5th race, $675. Serendipitymonday: June 20, 1st race, $675): First Mondays Partnership—$2,025.
FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: June 21, 6th race, $750. Joe the Jet: June 8, 8th race, $1,350. Storm Force: June 7, 1st race, $180): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$2,280.
FRIESAN FIRE (Buckin' Right: June 29, 10th race, $360. Hot On Your Heels: June 7, 9th race, $1,080. Shkhara Fire: June 1, 8th race, $735; June 29, 7th race, $2,205. Whiskey and You: June 22, 4th race, $1,080): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$5,460.
GALAWI (IRE) Ginger Snap: June 13, 5th race, $705): Northview Stallion Station Inc.
GOLDEN LAD (Chickin Lickin: June 21, 2nd race, $367.50. Elvis Himself: June 27, 9th race, $2,160. Laddie Dance: June 1, 3rd race, $217.50. My Brazilian Girl: June 27, 11th race, $2,025. Rowsie Express: June 29, 7th race, $367.50): Golden Lad Syndicate—$5,137.50.
GREAT NOTION (A P M Notion: June 8, 4th race, $1,080. At First Sight: June 20, 2nd race, $232.50. Esroh: June 8, 2nd race, $600. Great Artist: June 7, 1st race, $1,080. Great Idea: June 15, 6th race, $397.50. Great Moon: June 21, 9th race, $315. Haileysfirstnotion: June 6, 8th race, $840; June 29, 8th race, $840. Intel Agent: June 29, 6th race, $270. Karan's Notion: June 29, 8th race, $420. Mopo: June 29, 3rd race, $735. Nick's Notion: June 20, 3rd race, $360. Noah Chance: June 27, 9th race, $720. Speedyness: June 28, 4th race, $750. Stormy Hollow: June 15, 5th race, $945. Third Tuesday: June 21, 9th race, $945. Upsidedown Man: June 6, 1st race, $1,080): Great Notion Syndicate—$11,610.
HOLY BOSS (Basic Miles: June 13, 6th race, $225. Biscuitwiththeboss: June 15, 10th race, $750. Furious George: June 27, 7th race, $360. Granuaile: June 15, 7th race, $450. Holey Moley: June 15, 1st race, $1,800. Holy Brick: June 8, 6th race, $360. Hot Boss: June 8, 6th race, $1,080. Jolly Boss: June 27, 9th race, $360): Holy Boss Syndicate—$5,385.
HOPPERTUNITY (Fair Trade: June 14, 5th race, $945): Northview Stallion Station Inc.
IMAGINING (El Divino Nino: June 28, 8th race, $555. Hazelmoor Beach: June 22, 6th race, $180. Princess Clemmie: June 22, 1st race, $1,080): Imagining Syndicate—$1,815.
IRISH WAR CRY (Augustine Red: June 20, 4th race, $225. Celtic Contender: June 28, 11th race, $1,500. Green Eyed Monster: June 1, 5th race, $600. King's River: June 20, 8th race, $2,160. Tate's War Cry: June 13, 3rd race, $300): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$4,785.
KOBE'S BACK (Kobe's Hope: June 15, 9th race, $360. Mamba Mindset: June 27, 6th race, $360. No More Calls: June 7, 2nd race, $225): Bonita Farm—$945.
MADEFROMLUCKY (Madefromliona: June 8, 9th race, $450): Madefromlucky Syndicate.
MOSLER (Ariel Moon: June 28, 7th race, $225. Bay Street: June 6, 7th race, $397.50. Mosler Time: June 13, 8th race, $397.50. Put a Rock On It: June 22, 6th race, $360. Rapido Rosa: June 15, 4th race, $360; June 29, 9th race, $2,205. Worth a Dime: June 22, 7th race, $720): Mosler Syndicate—$4,665.
OUTFLANKER (Chimney Sweep: June 20, 1st race, $337.50): Outflanker Syndicate.
STREET MAGICIAN (Secure's Hope: June 14, 9th race, $675. Tanka Tough: June 8, 3rd race, $180. Whenigettoheaven: June 21, 6th race, $4,500): Estate of R. Larry Johnson—$5,355.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Concrete Faze: June 20, 3rd race, $720. Dine and Dash: June 1, 5th race, $300): Country Life Farm—$1,020.
UNCLE LINO (Big Tankness: June 20, 7th race, $2,025. Do It for Michael: June 28, 2nd race, $735. She's No Uncle: June 13, 9th race, $225): Northview Stallion Station—$2,985.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2025

(through September 15)

1. Mindframe	$1,197,220	11. Passion Rules	$189,600
2. Barbadian Runner	566,245	12. Heard On Thestreet	182,082
3. Seismic Beauty	416,840	13. Hollywood Walk	174,000
4. Future Is Now	366,000	14. Safe Trust	172,530
5. Quint's Brew	260,000	15. Just Philtored	167,430
6. Slam Notion	209,950	16. Romeo	161,260
7. Post Time	203,190	17. Mission North	159,200
8. Splendora	202,400	18. Haileysfirstnotion	156,930
9. Onyx Ten	193,000	19. Cluck Cluck	150,070
10. Lifelovenlaughter	192,300	20. Speedyness	148,500

Registration questions?
Membership inquiries?
Call Emily Stakem at 410.252.2100 x 129
Maryland Fund questions?
Call Nicole Hart-Richardson at 410.252.2100 x 128

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **October 2025** -

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Book'em Danno becomes leading all-time New Jersey-bred money earner with Grade 1 Forego win

Atlantic Six Racing's Book'em Danno turned in another stellar effort when taking over the lead in mid-stretch and holding off late-running longshot Scotland to extend his win streak to three races with a length decision in Saratoga's Grade 1, $500,000 Forego Aug. 23.

CHRIS RAHAYEL/COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

The son of Bucchero improved to 10-for-16 lifetime and earned his fourth win from five career starts at Saratoga and third this year, following the Grade 2 Alfred G. Vanderbilt July 19 and Grade 3 True North June 7 during the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival.

"He's probably the first [New Jersey-bred] that's won all those three races because they usually don't have them here," said trainer Derek Ryan. "I don't think it'll be done again. But he's a pretty good horse."

The Forego was a "Win and You're In" qualifier for the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile Nov. 1 at Del Mar, but trainer Derek Ryan Ryan is not looking at making the cross-country trip to Southern California.

"No, I'm still sticking to my plan," he said. "I'm sure it might change. But they're [owners Atlantic Six Racing] pretty good and have never told me where to run. So it's worked out pretty good."

Atlantic Six Racing's Jeff Rubenstein said the ownership group is content to leave the final decision up to Ryan.

"Owners are like mushrooms, best kept in the dark. So Derek makes all the decisions. I go one race at a time. So that's all him," he said. "As a Jersey-bred, on this stage - on the world's biggest racing stage with a Jersey-bred and [to] compete with Paco and Derek and this awesome ownership group, it means the world."

Winning jockey Paco Lopez has been aboard Book'em Danno for each of his last five starts, including a season-opening win in the restricted Boston Handicap March 14 at Colonial Downs and a hard-luck fourth, beaten a neck by Mindframe, in the Grade 1 Churchill Downs May 3 contested over a sloppy and sealed main track.

Bred by Gregory Kilka and Bright View Farm, Book'em Danno surpassed Open Mind as the richest New Jersey-bred in history with earnings of $1,855,425.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY */ 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764*
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Bel Pensiero holds on to win Eleven North Handicap

ARM Racing LLC and Hudson Stables Bel Pensiero held on to win the $100,000 Eleven North Handicap Aug. 24, her second stakes of her career.

Bel Pensiero, who will be sold as a racing/broodmare prospect at the Fasig-Tipton "Night of Stars" sale in November, had to first collar the tough luck Howler and then hold off the fast-closing My Two Sophia's for her sixth career win.

The winning time for the 6-furlong Eleven North Handicap was 1:11.23.

"She had been training really good coming into this," said winning trainer Anthony Margotta Jr. "We had the game plan to sit right off the pace, whoever was up there. We didn't want the lead. [Jockey] Ramon Moya did an outstanding job having her forwardly placed. She's not a great dirt horse. She's much better on the turf. But against this caliber of horses she can get the job done on the dirt as she just showed."

The complexion of the race changed when expected pace setter Howler missed the break, then rushed up to take command coming out of the final turn before tiring late.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

"The way we talked about the race with the inside speed horses is I was going to tuck in and save ground," said Moya. "She just popped out of there so sharply and I didn't want to take her intention away. So even though we had a plan, every jockey knows you have to have a plan B. Plan B was keeping her comfortable. You have to get to that point where she is comfortable and she was comfortable doing it the way she did today, sitting just off the pace. I felt like I had the inside horse beat but then I had [My Two Sophia's] flying on the outside. She just had enough to hold on.

The daughter of Army Mule out of Milaya, by Eskenderaya, was bred by ARM Consulting. She raised her career earnings to $418,587.

Great Navigator cruises in New Jersey Breeders Handicap

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Holly Crest Farm homebred Great Navigator won the $100,000 New Jersey Breeders Handicap by 4¼ lengths, giving Holly Crest and trainer Eddie Owens their second stakes victory during the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival.

Owens said he had "mixed emotions" about the result, since Great Navigator's stablemate Speaking, who carved out the early fractions, faded to last.

Great Navigator, a 5-year-old son of Sea Wizard, earned his sixth win from 22 career starts and pushed his earnings to $493,192.

The winning time for the 6 furlongs was 1:10.09.

No Cents was second, 1½ lengths better than Grouch.

Great Navigator had been idle since June 8, when third in the Friendly Lover Handicap.

"I don't know if he got jumped on coming out of the gate last time, but he had a big cut after that race," said Owens.

"I wanted to bring him back on the grass, but we had to wait, and this was the next spot. He has always run well for me fresh.

"He ran against some tough horses at Gulfstream over the winter so I can't say I'm surprised by this."

Jockey Samuel Marin echoed those sentiments.

"When I rode him the last race he had a little issue and I told Eddie, 'he's way better than this. We've just got to get him a good trip,' " said Marin.

"I was able to do that, and he proved he is a good horse. He showed us today how talented he is."

Riding Pretty holds on to win vs. boys in Charles Hesse III Handicap

Trainer Eddie Owens Jr. has so many good Jersey-breds that sometimes the toughest part is mixing and matching them when the state-restricted stakes races come up on the racing calendar.

The New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival at Monmouth Park Aug. 24 saw Owens push all the right buttons.

Riding Pretty, taking on males for the first time in her 27-race career, held on for a neck victory in the $125,000 Charles Hesse III Handicap, marking the third straight year that Owens has won the race – with three different horses.

"I wasn't concerned at all about racing her against the boys because her best races are on the dirt around two turns and she has proven herself in the Jersey-bred filly and mare division already," Owens said of Riding Pretty, who captured the Jersey Girl Handicap on the grass in her prior start. "Every time I put the saddle on her and ask her to run she gives me everything she's got. I can't ask for more than that.

"To win this race three years in a row with three different horses [Sea Streak in 2024 and Great Navigator in 2023] is a tremendous accomplishment."

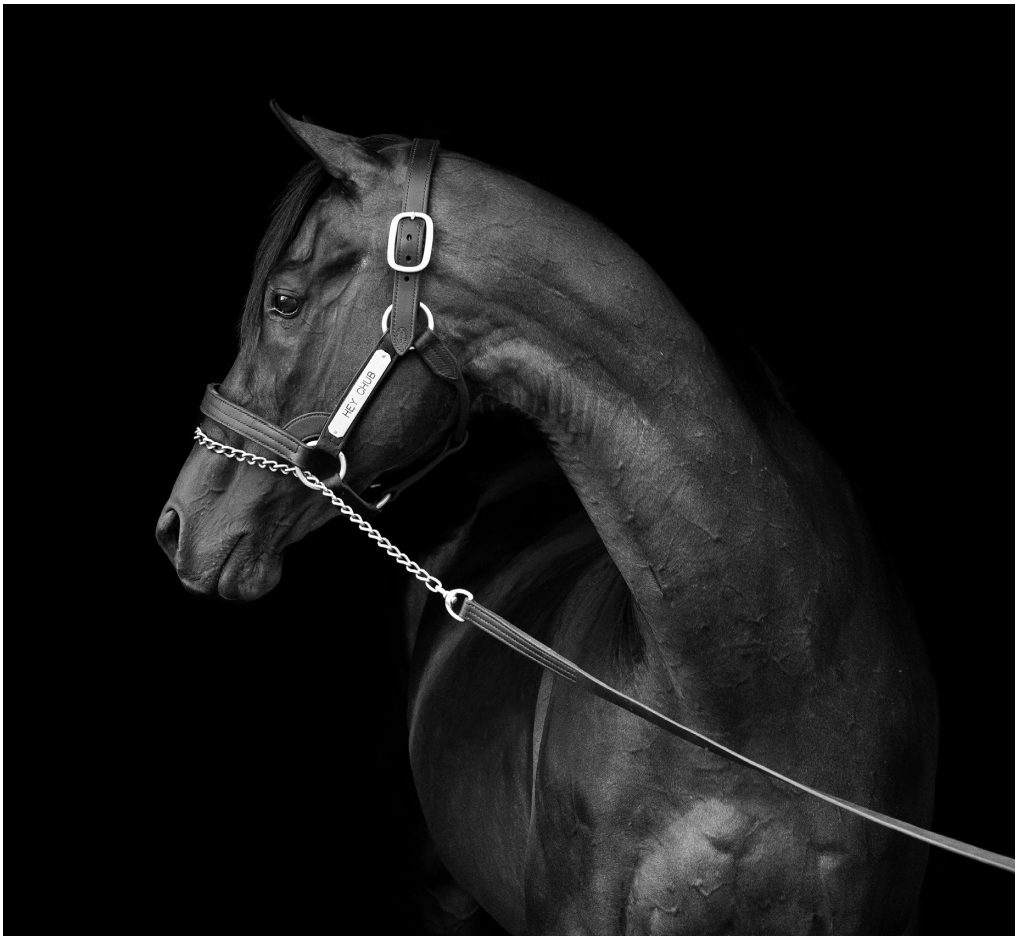
Riding Pretty, a Holly Crest Farm homebred, won for the seventh time in 27 lifetime starts. The winning time for the 1 1/16 miles was 1:46.12.

The victory was hard-earned, with Riding Pretty holding off the furious late charge of Forever Chocolate. It was another 3¼ lengths back to Amatteroftime in third.

"I asked her at the half mile because I had a feeling we were going a little bit slow," said winning jockey Samuel Marin, who won five races on the card. "I rode her going long [two starts back] on the dirt and they went a little slow and it cost her the race. I thought I had the best horse in the race that day but she didn't give me that kick at the end. This time I didn't want to wait too much on her because she didn't want to be on hold.

"It seems like every time she runs now she gets better."

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.



SARAH K. ANDREW

New Jersey leading sire Hey Chub passes away at 25

New Jersey's longtime leading sire Hey Chub, a multiple stakes-winning racehorse and prolific sire, passed away July 28 at the age of 25. The New Jersey-bred standout was a consistent force on the racetrack and in the breeding shed, leaving an indelible legacy on the Garden State's racing industry.

A son of Carson City out of Donna Doo (by Spend a Buck), Hey Chub was bred and campaigned by Daniel J. Lopez's Joe-Dan Farm, who remained his owner throughout his entire racing and stallion career. On the track, Hey Chub compiled an admirable record, hitting the board in 30 of 36 starts and amassing career earnings of $441,755. His consistency and competitive spirit earned him multiple stakes victories and a reputation for grit and reliability.

Transitioning to his second career at stud, Hey Chub quickly established himself as New Jersey's leading sire from 2016 through 2022, producing a remarkable 73 foals of racing age, 54 starters, and 47 individual winners. His offspring were as dependable as their sire, with a 17% win percentage and an average earnings per starter of $126,372.

Among his most accomplished progeny are:

CHUBLICIOUS ($754,378) – Winner of the prestigious 2017 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes.

BROTHER CHUB ($674,611) – Crowned 2018 New Jersey-bred Champion Sprinter and a fan favorite on the regional circuit.

CHUB WAGON ($669,400) – A dynamic filly and multiple stakes winner known for her speed and dominance in mid-Atlantic stakes.

LEO MONTE ($306,865) – Hey Chub's leading turf earner.

Collectively, Hey Chub's offspring have earned over $6.8 million, a testament to his impact on the local breeding industry and the success of Joe-Dan Farm's breeding program.

"Hey Chub wasn't just a talented racehorse and proven sire - he was part of the family," said Lopez. "He gave us everything he had every time, whether it was on the track or in the breeding shed. His legacy will live on through his sons and daughters who continue to carry his heart and talent."

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

October 2025

President's message

It has been a great year for all North Carolina Thoroughbred owners. We have had lots of race winners and all those new foals that were brought into this world.

North Carolina Thoroughbreds welcomes all new members and hopes that you will continue to support NCTA. Should you have any questions or suggestions please contact me directly at bherring@rtelco.net. I hope everyone has fantastic race results for the balance of the season.

Bonnie Herring
NCTA President

Race Results

NABOKOV – WINNER at Belterra, July 4; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Track Fast. Final Time 1:10:80. Nabokov cleared early, kept off inner rail around the turn, responded when set down in upper stretch, and drove to the finish.

NCTA Connection – Frank Batten

MAGIC TOKEN – WINNER at Woodbine, July 10; 7 furlongs on the all-weather track. Track Fast. Final Time 1:25.28. Magic Token settled at the back down the back straight, started gathering speed around the turn, increased stride and angled out leaving the quarter pole, was five wide and full of run at the top of the lane. Pulled off for the win in the final sixteenth – from last to first.

NCTA Connection – William Thompson Jr.

TIZ WICKED STRONG – WINNER at Horseshoe Indianapolis, July 12; 1 1/16 miles on the turf. Course Firm. Final Time 1:41.25. Tiz Wicked Strong had an awkward start, settled in the three path, rallied in the four path in the stretch with a strong drive to the finish line.

NCTA Connection – Denise Walsh – Never Better Stables

TAP ROOM – WINNER at Fort Erie, July 14; 7 furlongs on turf. Course Firm. Final Time 1:26.42. Tap Room left the gate alertly, set the pace and had the lead on the far turn, was the best.

NCTA Connection – William Thompson Jr.

MOM'S MARTINI – WINNER at Gulfstream, July 18; 1 mile and 70 yards on the all-weather track. Track Fast. Final Time 1:43.54. Mom's Martini tracked three wide to second turn, surged late to be first at the wire.

NCTA Connection – Dan Shea – Shea D Boy""s Stable

ZIPPIN PIPPIN – WINNER at Wyoming Downs, July 26; 5 furlongs on the dirt. Track Fast. Final Time :57.30. Zippin Pippin took lead on the stretch and drew off by 4 lengths.

NCTA Connection – Nancy Shuford

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Hitting the Board

June 5 – July 1, 2025

Date	Horse	Track
5/31/2025	Motion Granted	Woodbine
6/4/2025	Rockaway Reef	Horseshoe Indianapolis
6/6/2025	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town
6/7/2025	Tinki Abarrio	Churchill Downs
6/9/2025	Hartful Hope	Thistledown
6/10/2025	Taproom	Fort Erie
6/10/2025	In Your Life	Louisiana
6/12/2025	Colonel Cooper	Belterra Park
6/13/2025	Nabokov	Belterra Park
6/13/2025	Contrivance	Woodbine
6/19/2025	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town
6/14/2025	Tiz Sweet Emotion	Belterra Park
6/14/2025	Kenny Had a Notion	Charles Town
6/19/2025	Faultfinder	Woodbine
6/19/2025	Raise Aa Ruckus	Charles Town
6/20/2025	Motion Granted	Woodbine
6/21/2025	Magic Token	Woodbine
6/21/2025	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Race Track
6/22/2025	Mom's Martini	Gulfstream Park
6/23/2025	Taproom	Fort Erie
6/24/2025	Come On Arlene	Thistledown
6/26/2025	Managing Mischief	Hawthorne
6/26/2025	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town
6/27/2025	Fletcher	Penn National
6/27/2025	Cairo Caper	Penn National
6/29/2025	Foxxy Cleopatra	Churchill Downs

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HORSES IN TRAINING - 2025

Please list the horses you have BRED or OWN that are in training or racing. The Association will put them into our stable on Daily Racing Form. We will keep up with them through this medium and have news for the association and for the Mid-Atlantic. We will only use horses that finish in the money.

This will let us know what our members are doing on the racing front and inform everyone about your successes.

I will still have to trust you to keep us informed regarding the breeding. I love receiving news on how the horses are doing, who you are breeding to, and how you did at the sales. It is hard to find the time to sit down and send me this information, BUT PLEASE TRY.

Please take the time to fill this out for your racing stock. Please list all horses, even the ones I already have, so I can keep our stable updated. Use another page if you need more room.

Bred/Own/Both

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____DOB___ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB___ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB___ ☐☐☐

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North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

October 2025
pabred.com

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- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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Smarty Jones: Philadelphia's Champion finally gets his Crown

By Nikki Sherman

Nikki Sherman

'Smarty' is all you need to say. The name alone still brings back memories of the colt who made Philadelphians believe in something bigger than themselves. Few horses in modern racing history have had that kind of cultural impact. Smarty Jones wasn't just a Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner; he was Philadelphia's horse, a working-class champion who inspired people who had never before set foot on a racetrack.

This summer, more than two decades after his unforgettable Triple Crown bid, Smarty Jones was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. He became eligible for the Hall in 2009 but was repeatedly passed over by the nominating committee. This year, his first time actually making the ballot, the voters made sure he got in. For the Pennsylvanians who had rallied around him in 2004, the accolade felt like the crowning moment he had always deserved.

"I had heard through the grapevine that if they could just get his name on the ballot, the voters would do the rest," said Pat Chapman, who bred and owned Smarty with her late husband, Roy, under the moniker Someday Farm.

During the ceremony Aug. 1, 2025, she was teary-eyed while standing at the podium as she reminisced. "I'm so glad I lived to see this day. This is a bit of vindication for Smarty because he did not quite win the Triple Crown. But the Hall of Fame, that's the crown."

The colt's journey was unlikely from the day he was born Feb. 28, 2001. Foaled in Chester County, he was one of 914 Pennsylvania-Breds that year. He was first named Get Along, but Chapman changed his name to honor her mother, Mildred Jones, who shared a birthday with the colt and had carried the nickname 'Smarty' as a child.

But before he ever made it to the track, tragedy and hardship shaped his story. In December 2001, the Chapmans' trainer Robert Camac and his wife, Maryann, were murdered, rocking the racing world nationwide. And then two years later, under the care of trainer John Servis, Smarty reared up in the starting gate and slammed his head, fracturing bones around his eye and sinuses. Only sheer will kept him alive as world-renowned veterinarian Dr. Patty Hogan worked to save his life.

By the fall of 2003, Smarty was ready to run. Ridden by local jockey Stewart Elliott, he crushed all competition in his first two starts, one the Pennsylvania Nursery, by a combined 22¾ lengths. He made his sophomore debut just three days into the new year, stepping up in class for the Count Fleet Stakes at Aqueduct. A stumble out of the gate followed by a wide trip around the first turn were merely obstacles to be

overcome, and Smarty took them all in stride. When he grabbed the lead he never looked back, drawing away to a 5-length score.

What followed was one of the most thrilling campaigns in modern racing. Smarty swept Oaklawn Park's three Kentucky Derby preps before storming into Louisville, where he became the first undefeated Derby winner since Seattle Slew. His victory landed him in *Sports Illustrated*, becoming the first Kentucky Derby winner in 21 years to grace its cover. Time magazine also named him one of its 100 most influential "people" in 2004.

Two weeks after the Derby, he demolished his rivals in the Preakness by 11½ lengths, still the largest margin in the race's history. Afterwards, the colt traveled with police escorts from Pimlico to his home base in Bensalem, Pa., and then later to Belmont Park for the final leg of the Triple Crown. Few horses in history received such treatment, and by then it was clear Smarty wasn't just a racehorse – he was a national star.

In Philadelphia, Smarty was treated like a hometown sports legend. Philadelphia Park opened on Saturday mornings between the Preakness and Belmont so fans could watch him train. More than 10,000 people came out, packed 10 rows deep on the apron, many also wearing Phillies, Flyers, and Eagles jerseys. Children and adults alike waved signs as they cheered. "Smarty Parties" were held all over the country.

On June 5, 2004, 120,139 fans filled Belmont Park, a record for the largest crowd in the track's history that's never been broken. For much of the race, it looked like Smarty would deliver the long-awaited Triple Crown, but pressure was relentless throughout. In the final strides, Birdstone surged past and the grandstand fell silent. Marylou Whitney, the owner of Birdstone and a true member of racing royalty, admitted she was heartbroken that Smarty's dream had ended.

Even in defeat, Smarty's season was extraordinary. He was voted Champion Three-Year-Old Male of 2004 and earned a $5 million bonus from Oaklawn for sweeping its series and the Derby.

When Smarty retired, Philadelphia Park hosted a celebration in his honor, where fans once again crowded the apron to say goodbye. Fifteen years later, Parx Racing held another "Smarty Party" to honor the anniversary of his record-breaking season. The event felt like a replay of his retirement parade, with many of the same people in attendance. Some who had been teenagers in 2004 were now adults working in the sport, inspired by Smarty's story. Even John Servis' sons became trainers, while Stewart Elliott's son, Christopher, is a promising young rider.

Three Chimneys Farm in Kentucky won the bidding war to stand Smarty at stud, also inheriting the droves of fans wanting to visit their hero. He returned to the Keystone State in the early 2010s and stood for five years before joining the Kentucky roster at historic Calumet Farm. In 2019, he was back in his home state and now headlines the stallion roster at Rodney Eckenrode's Equistar Training and Breeding in Annville, Pa.

Smarty quickly schooled Eckenrode on the rules of his happiness, chief among them a steady supply of carrots and mints. On Aug. 9, the farm hosted one more 'Smarty Party' to celebrate his Hall of Fame induction, and, of course, attendance was overwhelming, with fans traveling from all over the country.

"Smarty's 24 and I don't even want to think about a day that he won't be here," Eckenrode admitted. "He's the first one to talk to me in the morning and the last one to say good night."

At the Hall of Fame induction, emotions ran high. "Chappy is not here to enjoy this with us," Chapman said of her late husband. "He would be loving and cherishing every minute, but he's here in my heart. He's always here in my heart. I look around the room and I see the faces of so many Pennsylvania Thoroughbred horsemen, Pennsylvania breeders, Pennsylvania fans, and racing fans from other parts of the country. You've all worked so hard to keep Smarty's memory alive, and well, you've done a great job. I thank every one of you."

Servis, who admitted he spent serious time preparing his speech, summed up what made the colt so special. "Smarty Jones wasn't just a champion, he was a horse who captured the imagination of racing fans everywhere. His grit in the stretch, his unrelenting will to win and his undeniable charisma make him unforgettable. But beyond his talent, Smarty Jones had something even more special – he had a connection with people."

Elliott, who rode Smarty in every race, agreed. "He wasn't a big horse, but he had a big heart and he stayed in there for me," he said. "I am so grateful and happy that finally Smarty Jones was elected into the Hall of Fame. He was definitely the best horse that year and he deserves never to be forgotten. Many people know Smarty, but I am fortunate and lucky enough to say that I was the only one on his back and felt how determined he was, how much heart he had and how much he loved to run."

For Philadelphians, and for racing fans everywhere, Smarty Jones remains unforgettable. He was the horse who made a city believe, who packed Belmont Park to record numbers, and who inspired children to chase their own dreams. Now, at last, Philadelphia's champion has his crown.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congratulations to the 11 breeders that have surpassed the $100,000 mark in total awards through July! Our leaders are Warriors Reward and Uptowncharlybrown with over $500,000 and $400,000 respectively. Wow! The record to break is $927,518. We have 283 Breeders that have received awards in 2025. If you want to become part of our program email us at info@pabred.com or give me a call at (610) 444-1050.

Rodney and Sharon Eckenrode hosted a fantastic party at their Equistar Farm to celebrate the induction of Smarty Jones into the National Racing Hall of Fame. Pat Chapman, on behalf of Smarty, received an official PA Senate citation from Senator Chris Gebhard, the first ever presented to a nonhuman. Way to go Smarty!

I'm happy to announce that there will be no registration fee for the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series in 2025. If your 2yo is a PA-Sired PA-Bred you will be automatically registered to run.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We are transitioning to paperless the beginning of next year.

Wishing you good luck for the balance of 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race!!

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through June 30, 2025

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	293,876	85,427	379,303	Steven W. Young Racing LLC (A1A Racing)	71,536	29,063	100,599
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	256,410	113,622	370,032	Glenn E Brok LLC	65,563	33,279	98,843
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	150,749	150,749	Richard N. Miller	78,372	16,571	94,943
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	53,460	81,866	135,327	Pewter Stable	70,413	23,948	94,361
Blackstone Farm LLC	119,694	0	119,694	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	94,241	0	94,241

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	223	113,622	Uncle Lino	70	32,468
Warrior's Reward	206	85,427	Peace and Justice	79	29,063
Weigelia	138	78,624	Rowayton	33	27,990
Hoppertunity	163	66,770	Jump Start	65	26,724
Social Inclusion	62	47,571	Winchill	85	23,948

LEADING HORSES

Fund money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Pa Bred Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
HOUGHTON SHUFFLE*	Medallist—Runs Like L	Melissa Houghton	4	58,800	44,080	11,020	11,600	125,500
PACHELBEL*	Hoppertunity—Brilliant Sunshine	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	8	0	57,355	14,339	40,968	112,662
SON OF THOR*	Rowayton—Charlybrown's Rose	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	5	0	56,448	14,112	40,320	110,880
BIG BOYS ANSWER*	Uptowncharlybrown—Empires Answer	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	6	0	59,315	14,829	35,168	109,312
HARP'S HOT CORNER*	Weigelia—Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	6	1,000	56,040	14,010	24,480	95,530
CARMELINA	Maximus Mischief—Complete St.	Lilith E. Boucher	2	59,400	21,120	0	13,200	93,720
NINJA PRIZE*	Warrior's Reward—Lemon Strudel	Kathleen Brady	6	0	34,832	8,708	24,880	68,420
SOCIALLY AWKWARD*	Social Inclusion—Bluegrass Smile	Blackstone Farm LLC	7	0	41,748	10,437	16,080	68,265
JUMP A FOX*	Jump Start—Foxy A. G.	Peter Giangiulio	10	0	34,690	8,673	22,436	65,799
FIERCE AND STRONG*	Hoppertunity—Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	1	42,750	17,100	4,275	0	64,125

**Denotes PA-sired*

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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Racing Across the Nation

During the period between July 27 and Aug. 23, five South Carolina training center graduates found the winner's circle following stakes in Texas, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and New York.

At Lone Star Park at Grande Prairie July 27, **Little J P** captured his fourth lifetime stakes victory winning the Sprint Series Stakes. Little J P broke on top and never looked back. In a closely fought battle throughout, he prevailed by a head. Little J P was prepared for his racing career at Randy and Kala Rentz's training center in Erhardt. He is currently owned by Rick, Cory and Laura Wiest, Barb Depew and Jeff Van Nistlerooy and trained by Laurie Fergusen.

Air Recruit, now a two-time stakes winner, proved best in the Oceanport Stakes at Monmouth Park Aug. 10. Air Recruit stalked the leader from the start. He wore that one down in the shadow of the wire, getting there first by a nose. Air Recruit is a graduate of Brad Stauffer and Ron Stevens' Legacy Stable breaking program in Aiken. He is owned by Mark Grier and trained by Arnaud Delacour. Air Recruit has won four of his six career starts.

The 2-year-old colt **Magic Wallet** won his first two starts - breaking his maiden at Colonial Downs July 25 and winning Delaware Park's Dover Stakes Aug. 14. On the pace early on, he dropped back before moving to the outside and putting in a strong rally in the stretch to reach the finish line 2¾ lengths in front. Owned by William Bayne and Super C Racing, he is trained by Claudio Gonzales. Magic Wallet went through the breaking process at the Travis Durr Training Center in St. Matthews.

Lifelovenlaughter won her second stakes in a row when taking the All Brandy at Colonial Downs Aug. 16. This was also her third win this year. Lifelovenlaughter sat right behind the leader before taking the lead inside the eighth pole. She held off a late charger to win by a neck. This mare was bred and is owned by SCTOBA member Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group and trained by Mike Trombetta. Grant is also the owner of the Camden Training Center. Custom Care Equine's Donna Freyer prepares his horses for their racing careers there.

The amazing **Book'em Danno** notched his third stakes win in a row when proving best in the Forego Stakes-G1 at Saratoga on Travers Day, Aug. 23. Fourth early on, Book'em Danno was within striking distance before gaining with an eighth of a mile to go. He crossed the finish line a length in front. Owned by Atlantic Six Racing LLC and trained by Derek Ryan, this 4-year-old gelding has captured eight stakes in only 16 lifetime starts. Prepared for his racing career by Randy and Kala Rentz, he has accumulated $1,855, 425 in career earnings.

SCTOBA members hit jackpot

Little Trilby, owned by SCTOBA member Virginia Lazenby's Del Rio LLC, became a two-time stakes winner when he proved best in the Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes at Saratoga Aug. 13. While over 18 lengths behind the leader after the opening mile of this 2⅜ miles marathon test over hurdles, Little Trilby began his run to take the lead at the top of the stretch and proved much the best when crossing the finish line 12½ lengths clear of the field. Charleston, S.C., resident Brandon Dermody is a member of the Del Rio partnership.

SCTOBA member and Aiken resident Suzy Haslup is a member of the ownership group that watched their filly, Trail of Gold, rally from last to first in the Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Stakes Series at Saratoga Aug. 13. Trail of Gold came widest of all around the field during the turn for home and mowed down the competition to cross the finish line 1¾ lengths in front. She has three wins in 10 starts. Trail of Gold's trainer, David Donk, trained horses in Aiken while he was an assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens, who saddled five Belmont Stakes winners in a row.

Another Aiken resident and SCTOBA member is Tina Adinolfi. She has an interest in several MyRacehorse partnerships. Some of her recent winners include Seismic Beauty, who proved best in the Clement L. Hirsch Stakes-G1 by 1½ lengths at Del Mar Aug. 2. She will now point for the Breeders' Cup Distaff which will also take place at Del Mar.

More victories recorded for Adinolfi include Reputation's win in the Tyson Gilpin Stakes Aug. 9 at Colonial Downs. She won as much the best by 6¾ lengths The 2-year-old filly, Love Like Lucy, won her initial start by 1¾ lengths at Gulfstream Park in a maiden special weight Aug. 8.

Debut Winners

There was a flurry of debut winners who went through the breaking process in South Carolina between July 24 and Aug. 10.

Randy and Kala Rentz and their crew at the Rentz Farm Training Center saw Angie's Reward win at Penn National July 24 by 1¾ lengths. Mr. Randy proved best in his debut at Colonial Downs Aug. 7, winning by a neck. Divine Intentions got the job done at Penn National on the same night.

The Travis Durr Training Center produced first time out winners beginning

Continued next page

with Magic Wallet proving much the best by 10½ lengths at Colonial Downs July 25. On Aug. 6 at Saratoga, Sweet Montreal was a winner by a half-length going off at 42-1!! Four days later. Carmel Coast also won at Saratoga by 5½ lengths.

Kip Elser, a Vice President of SCTOBA, is the breeder of debut winner Practical Joy, who won by 3 lengths at Prairie Meadows July 18.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Princess Runaway	Travis Durr Training Center	07/21/25	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Last of My Kind	Aiken - Rebecca Hurt	07/21/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Banker Blayney	Arch Kingsley	07/22/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Nature's Candy	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/22/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Marvelous Mo	Travis Durr Training Center	07/24/25	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Pachabel	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/24/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Angie's Reward	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/24/25	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Magic Wallet	Travis Durr Training Center	07/25/25	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Fourfiftyfour	Travis Durr Training Center	07/26/25	Woodbine	Allowance
Bartlett	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/26/25	Colonial Downs	Allowance
LITTLE J P	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/27/25	Lone Star Park	Sprint Series S
Gray Haired Gus	Travis Durr Training Center/ Rentz Farm Training Center	07/28/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Deeply Hidden	Travis Durr Training Center	07/29/25	Louisiana Downs	Maiden Special Weight
King's Leap	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/29/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Ballad of Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/31/25	Penn National	Allowance
Baltic Fire	Mason Springs	07/31/25	Del Mar	Allowance
Uncle Arlys	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/01/25	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Tarsus Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/01/25	Penn National	Allowance
Incinerator	Aiken - Legacy Stable	08/02/25	Colonial Downs	Allowance
My Girl Sky	Travis Durr Training Center	08/03/25	Woodbine	Allowance
Iron Max	Travis Durr Training Center	08/03/25	Saratoga	Starter Allowance
A Case of You	Travis Durr Training Center	08/04/25	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Karina Anna	Arch Kingsley	08/06/25	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Sweet Montreal	Travis Durr Training Center	08/06/25	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Adjustable Rate	Travis Durr Training Center	08/06/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Mr. Randy	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/07/25	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Quasi Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/07/25	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Queen's Wreath	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/07/25	Penn National	Allowance
Kashmir Witch	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/07/25	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Divine Intentions	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/07/25	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Foggy Dew	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/07/25	Charles Town	Allowance
Little Ni	Travis Durr Training Center	08/09/25	Saratoga	Allowance
AIR RECRUIT	Aiken - Legacy Stable	08/10/25	Monmouth Park	Oceanport S
Carmel Coast	Travis Durr Training Center	08/10/25	Saratoga	Allowance
MAGIC WALLET	Travis Durr Training Center	08/14/25	Delaware Park	Dover S
Gilda's Girl	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/15/25	Penn National	Allowance
Dynamic Actress	Travis Durr Training Center	08/16/25	Delaware Park	Allowance
LIFELOVENLAUGHTER	Custom Care - D. Freyer	08/16/25	Colonial Downs	All Brandy S
Mischief Maxey	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/17/25	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Foligno	Travis Durr Training Center	08/18/25	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Allowance
Lipan Law	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/18/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
The Paddock Pastor	Custom Care - D. Freyer	08/18/25	Saratoga	Allowance
Kohlers	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/19/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Dr. Kraft	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/19/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
BOOK'EM DANNO	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/23/25	Saratoga	Forego S-G1

VIRGINIA

QUEST REALTY'S AMRIT TAKES GRAND CHAMPION HONORS AT 2025 VIRGINIA BREEDER'S FUND YEARLING FUTURITY

Congratulations to Quest Realty's Amrit who took top honors in the $40,000 Virginia Breeder's Fund 2025 Yearling Futurity held August 24 at the Warrenton Horse Show Grounds. Winner of the Virginia-Bred/Sired colt & gelding class, Amrit advanced to the final round — as did the top two finishers from four different classes that morning — and was named Grand Champion by judge Cary Frommer. The champ is by Oscar Performance out of Jumpin' Nancy by Jump Start. Interestingly, this marked the second straight year the Futurity Grand Champion was out of Jumpin' Nancy — the 2024 winner was Paynted By Nancy.

Quest Realty's Amrit was named Grand Champion at the 2025 Yearling Futurity (Hannah Jines photo).

Reserve Champion honors went to Althea Richards' Snapadoodle who was runner-up in the Virginia-Bred/Sired fillies category earlier that morning. She is by Army Mule out of For Finery by Not For Love.

The biggest field of competitors came from Snapadoodle's class where a total of 13 fillies entered. The winner was South Gate Farm's Un-named dark bown filly by Essential Quality out of Lorena by Souper Speedy. Third behind Snapadoodle was another from Any Moore's South Gate Farm — an Un-named bay by Jackie's Warrior out of Strong Beauty by Overanalyze. Fourth place went to Becky Lavin's Un-named gray by Blofeld out of Falsehood by Awesome Again, followed by Morgan's Ford Farm's Un-named bay by Omaha Beach out of Florida Fuego by Kantharos, Lynn Ashby's Shy Ice Tea by Frosted out of Shifra Magician by Street Magician, James Day/Daybreak Stables' Un-named bay by Corniche out of Callipepla by Yes It's True, and Morgan's Ford Farm's Un-named dark brown by Upstart out of Crabcakes by Great Notion.

The balance of the Virginia-Bred/Sired Colt & Gelding finishers in order behind Amrit was Mojallali Stables' Unrelenting U by Frosted out of Unshakable U by Bodemeister, Doug Daniels' chestnut Sandbar Island by Kantharos out of Dialed Me Perfect by Dialed In, Sugarland Equine Etiquette's Un-named dark brown by Rock Your World out of Hopeful Angel by Majestic Warrior, and Darlene Bowlin's Blow Smoke by Blofeld out of Dixie Dazzle.

Virginia-Certified classes for resident yearlings have been added to the program in recent years. In the 2025 colt & gelding category, owner Pat Neusch and breeder Forever Young Racing's The Ridd was awarded first place. The chestnut is by By My Standards out of Irish Pharoah by American Pharoah. Next was DMC Racing Stables & Holly House Farm's Derry Walls who was bred by James Steele. The runner-up is by Gormley out of Irish Gal by Cape Blanco. The rest of the field is all owned by Sugarland Equine Etiquette — an Un-named bay by Japanese-bred Yoshida out of Signify by Speightstown, an Un-named brown by Peace and Justice out of Map of America by Liam's Map, and Preux Chevalier by Take Charge Indy out of Potiche by Dixie Union. The respective breeders of the trio include Winstar Farm, Sugarland Equine/Matty Thoroughbreds, and Pia Kirkham.

Chad Carter's Un-named bay by McKinzie out of Light the Causeway by Giant's Causeway took top honors in the Virginia-Certified Fillies class while Sugarland's Un-named dark brown by Tonalist out of Adopted Kingdom by Animal Kingdom was second. The rest of the field respectively included Avram Freeberg's Un-named brown by Nashville out of Senorita Guzman by Constitution, Sugarland's Un-named chestnut by Uncle Lino out of La Duquesa by Poseidon's Warrior, and Sugarland's Un-named bay

Old Dominion Derby winner World Beater was best in the $500,000 stakes (Coady Media).

by Improbable out of North Broadway by Quality Road. The breeders of third thru fifth place finishers include Everything's Cricket Racing, Joni Fontana and Winstar Farm.

A total of 28 yearlings competed between the four classes and $30,000 in prize money was distributed — $7,500 per class. In addition, separate $5,000 bonus pools will be awarded after the participants' three-year-old racing seasons in both the Virginia-Bred/Sired category and the Virginia-Certified category. The top four, based solely on earnings to that point, will share a percentage of their respective pool. Grooms of the category winners and Grand/Reserve champion horses received $100 each.

NEW VIRGNIA EQUINE ALLIANCE 175-STALL BARN DEBUTS AT WOODSTOCK, VA HARNESS TRACK

Virginia's horse racing industry took another big step forward September 5 with a ceremonial ribbon cutting of a new 175-stall horse barn at Shenandoah Downs' harness track in Woodstock, VA. The 32,500 square foot barn represents a $2 million-plus investment in harness racing by the Virginia Equine Alliance. The dual-purpose barn can house livestock during the Shenandoah County Fair and at other off-season shows, in addition to housing horses during the track's spring and fall race meets.

Althea Richards' Snapadoodle earned Reserve Champion honors at the Futurity (Hannah Jones photo).

RILEY MOTT'S WORLD BEATER WINS $500,000 OLD DOMINION DERBY

Pin Oak Stud's World Beater lived up to his lofty name September 6 at Colonial Downs, storming down the center of the Secretariat Turf Course to capture the Grade 3, $500,000 Old Dominion Derby. The chestnut colt trained by Riley Mott and ridden by Jamie Torres rated kindly in midpack through the early stages of the 1⅛-mile turf test before uncorking a powerful stretch rally. World Beater earned his second graded stakes win — following the Grade 1 Saratoga Derby triumph August 2. The victory gave the Mott family four Derby wins overall — in 22 editions. Bill Mott, Riley's father, trained prior winners Orchard Park, Silver Tree and Go Between.

Torres' win aboard World Beater in the Old Dominion Derby capped off three consecutive stakes victories on the day, including piloting As Catch Can to victory in the Old Dominion Oaks and Doncho in the Da Hoss Stakes.

The Virginia Equine Alliance's new $2 million barn can accommodate up to 175 horses (VEA photo).

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter October 2025

Summer Stakes Menu

By Jeff Gilleas

LAST ENCHANTMENT STAKES

When you hear the name Last Enchantment, it's analogous of a Gentleman's Club on the Vegas Strip.

Rather, it was a popular horse and homebred son of Glide, owned, trained and bred by John McKee.

Winner of 14 lifetime starts, the rapid gray/roan gelding is foremost recognized for his electric performance in the 2000 edition of the Dash for Cash, while turning in a career best Beyer number of 106.

The common run distance of 4½ furlongs, tabbed on the Charles Town Classic undercard, heralded a deep field of stakes-winning overachievers.

Akin to the 100-yard dash in the Olympics, this abbreviated distance demands an agile start, instant acceleration and traffic free trip.

Paraphrasing a pre-race interview with trainer Jeff Runco, Gabby Gaudet of Fanduel asked the top notch horseman, unlike his relatives Duncan Idado captivates audiences by exclusively sprinting. What makes this horse different?

Runco instantly referred to the mare (Holy Pow Wow), and how everything she throws is a versatile runner, but Duncan Idaho. Though a big powerful horse, his comfort zone is 4½ furlongs and that's where he will exclusively compete.

Stalking rivals from his outside post, the son of Fiber Sonde always gave the impression of his superiority and held Youthinthatsfunny safe, after that rival had encountered a lamentable beginning.

Duncan Idaho was bred by John McKee and owned by David Raim.

AUTUMN STAKES

The girls demanding equal time sprinting didn't anticipate that Cyndy McKee's Overnight Pow Wow would bypass more lucrative spots on the festive card and opt for the minor $40,000 overnight feature.

The 1-5 prohibitive favorite has built her reputation on pedigree, class and speed.

However, the racing Gods forgot to inform longshot winner Party Time for Me to defy her underdog odds of 19-1, and she stunned the chalk loyal crowd in attendance.

Predicted for a minor share only by most prognosticators, the daughter of Weave It to Me out of Party N the Palace treated her backers to some incredible stretch dramatics to narrowly prevail.

Owned, trained and bred by Anthony Grigbsy, it was the stakes debut for the attractive bay, who uncoiled a sustained quarter-of-a-mile run around rivals to nail OPW at the finish line.

Aided by a track surface which was heavily cushioned, not souped-up for one-day record performances, left closers on the program brimming with confidence.

FRANK GALL MEMORIAL STAKES

The 13th race under Friday night lights was the $75,000 Frank Gall Memorial for predominantly older West Virginia-bred males.

Teachntherelease continued a memorable run for trainer Stephen Murdock as he wired a field of gifted runners in the two-turn Classic evening finale.

Rapidly approaching midnight, many fans had already headed towards the exits, missing one of the best races of the entire card.

Setting moderate fractions, the son of Windsor Castle out of Romantic Cork opened up a commanding advantage on the backstretch and under strong handling easily held sway.

Finishing behind the astute Robert L. Cole Jr. claim (one of dozens he has made over the years) was No Change, Catch the Humor, Muad'dib, Social Chic and Runaldo.

When not pestered on the lead, this John Casey-bred has the genetic

potential and explosive power to handle any distance.

ROBERT LEAVITT MEMORIAL STAKES

Owner John Link has been a longtime fitness advocate, and that passion manifested in the ownership of several area health clubs.

He also has a keen eye for a sharp trainer (Jeff Runco), and a good horse, and that combination finally solved the lengthy puzzle to the missing link in his stakes-winning quest.

Spotafreeone, a son of Warrior's Reward out of Harbin Ice, overcame a chaotic beginning by Manny Too, determinedly held his position under astute handling, and narrowly prevailed over a quality opponent in the $75,000 Robert G. Leavitt Memorial.

Always a high point on the sultry summer stakes schedule, the Leavitt is a two-turn, 7-furlong race for straight 3-year-olds, named for the former general manager/ racing visionary.

Attendance numbers were strong that Saturday night, July 19, as fans earnestly rallied to witness the local debut of the highly-regarded West Virginia-bred Pascaline.

Bred by James Miller and owned by the syndicate of West Point Thoroughbreds, Jimmy Kahig, C J Stables and Edwin Barker, the son of Upstart out of Tres Chic tossed a dud in the Delaware Derby, but with the addition of lasix and a helping of home cooking, success appeared probable.

Jockeys Angel Cruz (Pascaline), and Arnaldo Bocachica (Spotafreeone) pushed their skills to the limit as the equine duo was separated by a scant neck over the track listed as muddy/sealed.

The time (1:24.95) was exceptional, however somewhat aided by rains which significantly packed down the clay and sand surface.

A rematch between these sophomore state-bred runners should be a definite target to mark on your fall calendar.

Spotafreeone is undefeated in three starts in 2025, and boasts career earnings in excess of $102,000.

SYLVIA BISHOP MEMORIAL STAKES

In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future – Alex Haley

Generational wealth in the Bishop, Berry and Rideoutt families may not always be in the form of a physical nature, but it unmistakably revolves around loyalty, unity and horses.

Every year, the number of attendees grows in support of Sylvia Bishop, the first Afro-American female trainer licensed in the United States, while her name remains conspicuous in any historical discussion pertinent to the Charles Town Races.

Daughter Laverne Bishop refuses to let the memory of her mother wither, and tirelessly campaigns to keep her dynamism relevant to the current generation.

The last few years, Beau Ridge Farm females have dominated the 3-year-old filly headlines, but with the retirement of Direct the Cat, and Overnight Pow Wow a year older, this category is searching for a suitable replacement.

After the July 26 Bishop win, they may have discovered her.

Though sporting a win in the 2024 edition of the James and Eleanor Casey Memorial, Zip Start has been relatively overlooked in a crowded division.

Owned by Coleswood Farm and David Raim, the attractive bay has a versatile running style and exudes quality.

The daughter of Upstart out of Dancing for Glory was bred by Williams Racing Corporation.

One of three fillies trained by Jeff Runco in the compact six-horse field, Zip Start broke alertly from her outside post, prompted the early pace under rating and widened through the lane under only modest encouragement from Arnaldo Bocachica.

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- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/ or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
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- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 165 race days per year.

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The legacy at Legacy

Anne Kinsley carries on where Bob Kinsley left off in the steeplechase world

By Betsy Burke Parker

The late Bob Kinsley left his mark.

Friends and acquaintances remember Kinsley, who died in 2020, as creator of a successful construction and land management empire starting with seed money of a mere $19. They remember him as a builder (he hated the term "developer"), but at once a staunch conservationist with a keen interest in land preservation and resource protection.

They remember him as an avid outdoorsman, an ardent rider and an enthusiastic foxhunter. This longtime joint-master of Maryland's Elkridge Harford Hunt Club was above all else a family man; he bought up a cluster of continuous farms so the still-growing Kinsley clan could share everything from the family business to the South Branch farm life he and wife Anne had built starting from their January wedding day in 1961.

They remember Kinsley's lengthy association with jump racing, an enthusiastic thoroughbred owner-breeder who took as much joy in pedigree selection and young-horse training as he did from standing in the winner's circle to collect the silver after his Lyonell won the grade 2 Gwathmey.

But very few may remember - they may have never known, how, 26 and a half years ago, Kinsley literally helped shape Shawan Downs, his lasting legacy to American steeplechasing.

Opening day for the National Steeplechase Association's fall schedule, the 25th annual Legacy Chase on September 27th is

Bob Kinsley *©Douglas Lees*

tribute to the vision of the couple dozen Maryland preservationists who circled the wagons to protect the big farm parcel from residential development and create a world-class steeplechase course out of the property north of Baltimore. Former race chair Charlie Fenwick says lots of credit goes to Kinsley's boots on the ground approach of "quietly getting stuff done."

"Bob Kinsley came to our rescue at Shawan Downs when we needed more help than we had," recalls Fenwick, former Legacy race director and part of Shawan's birth. "He not only helped carve that racecourse out of the side of a hill, his company put down topsoil, seeded it and got it ready for that first fall growing season.

"When we look back on it, it's pretty miraculous. He got us an extraordinary irrigation system – 800 gallons a minute, water like crazy all because of Bob's direction and vision.

"A lot of what we see today is because of his foresight and understanding of how everything would work together."

Shawan Downs lies on former cattle and cropland near Cockeysville at the southwest edge of Green Spring Valley Hounds territory just 10 miles north of the Baltimore beltway. When you look at it, you recognize the near desperation with which the creators strove to protect the farm from urban creep, preserving it in perpetuity for generations to enjoy.

How it happened

Bob Kinsley entered jump racing when a friend, Ann Stewart, sold him what became his first winner, and first champion. Incomplete went on to win most of the nation's timber stakes and the 2012 NSA timber title.

Anne Kinsley had long supported Bob's equine obsessions, but she wasn't the one running the show until her husband of 60 years died in 2020. "It was suddenly different, without Bob here," Anne recalls how everything changed once he was gone. "Sixty years. That's a big part of your life.

"I wasn't sure how I'd get through it."

But, ever the planner and logistician, Bob Kinsley had left his legacy in good hands: He'd engineered active steeplechase jockey Sean McDermott and his fiancee to be live-in managers of one of their Monkton, Maryland farms, leaving Anne, and his string of racehorses and young stock, well poised for his absence.

Kinsley had purchased Maple Springs Farm in Monkton, and he needed a farm trainer. McDermott needed a rental.

Fate intervened.

"Bob Kinsley had this way of persuading people to do things they didn't really plan on doing," McDermott recalls with a laugh Kinsley driving him around the farm, showing him the barns and the horses, when all McDermott was interested in, honestly, was the cottage. "I'd made it clear to him I was a jockey. I had no plan to be a trainer.

"He just grinned when I said that. He got this glint in his eye."

McDermott and his fiancee Jennie moved in, and the Kinsleys sent them several young horses for pre-training, McDermott says. "He knew I didn't want to give up riding for training. I guess he thought I could do both."

For the past four years, McDermott acknowledges that his race riding has winnowed to mostly just riding the ones he trains, and his training string has grown to include not only Kinsley runners but a few outside clients. He's making it work.

When Bob Kinsley died June 10, 2020, Anne restructured the stable as South Branch Equine LLC. McDermott saddled his first South Branch starters two weeks later, Aardwolf and Compass Zone at Great Meadow.

"It was a little overwhelming," Anne recalls, "all these horses I didn't know what to do with.

"Sean was a big help sorting it out."

"I am really appreciative of the vision, opportunity and support that Bob and Mrs Kinsley have given me," McDermott says. "It was a steep, but rapid learning curve at the start.

"But I think we learned quickly and to train 16 winners from homebreds of Bob's and to also be the jockey on the majority of those wins, is something I am proud of.

"I just wish Bob was here to experience it."

Meet 'the accidental trainer'

Sean McDermott never set out to train.

Now 42, his story begins on a small family farm in Ballymacelligott near Tralee in County Kerry, Ireland, youngest of six. "We'd always had a few cows, sheep, chickens," he recalls. "Dad always had some horses and ponies, and he got us all riding."

He did show jumping and pony club, but he changed focus at 14 to racing. He went to Ireland's acclaimed apprentice jockey school, winning his first race at Wexford in 2000. McDermott rode nearly 200 winners before shifting to the U.S. in 2013. His first U.S. win was the novice hurdle stake at

Sean McDermott *©Tod Marks*

Saratoga aboard Barnstorming for Hall of Fame trainer the late Jonathan Sheppard.

In America, he's ridden nearly 100 winners under rules and point-to-point.

McDermott has been ranked in the top five in both races and money won seven times since 2015, in 2016 and 2017 tops in money-earned.

But sustained success as a rider didn't fully prepare McDermott for what it would feel like as trainer. His first score as trainer came with Kinsley homebred Favorite Image, a front-running triumph at 6-1 at Pimlico in July, 2021.

"[It was] very different," McDermott said in a Maryland Jockey Club interview. "(I'd) ridden a lot of winners all over the world, from Australia to Ireland, England, America.

"The first one as a trainer is more pride, especially with this horse because the previous advice Mr. Kinsley had gotten was to give this horse away. They thought he was too small, but he was actually just a very late foal and a late developer."

The differences between race riding and race training are palpable, McDermott says. "Being a small operation, you still have to go back and do all the work yourself when it's your barn. Riding a winner, you get all the praise, pat the horse and walk away.

"You don't have to go back to a stable full of horses and take care of them.

"The most difficult part of training is getting good staff. We're lucky at the moment to have a really good team of people, without which we could not function.

"I mean, as a rider, it's pretty simple. You're thinking about your weight and your tactics, that's all. As a trainer, you're thinking about a thousand other things."

South Branch Equine homebred Who's Counting is McDermott's biggest earner – over $3377,000 including a hurdle stake at Foxfield in April 2024 and an allowance on the turf at Laurel in September 2024.

"Back home in Ireland, you'd have more trainers that run dual purpose," on the flat and over hurdles, McDermott says. "I'm not sure why more people don't do that in the states.

"I think it keeps a horse fresh. Who's Counting is a perfect example. He's a horse that just loves to jump.

"Before the race at Laurel, I let him pop a few hurdles. It's like Christmas morning to him. He comes out with a pep in his step, bucking and carrying on. I think it can move a horse up, to make them happy."

Anne Kinsley, groom Alice McCarthy and trainer/jockey Sean McDermott in the winner's circle with homebred Robert's Luxury at the 2022 Virginia Fall Races. . *©Douglas Lees*

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— Looking Back —

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
OCTOBER 2015
Meadow Stud
Virginia Thoroughbred nursery earns lasting place in history

10 years ago

■ Known as the birthplace of Secretariat, Virginia's Meadow Stud was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The famed nursery boasts a deep history far beyond Big Red, having bred four Hall of Famers, and being the home to leading sires and three broodmares of the year.

No longer a Thoroughbred farm, the multi-purpose facility is now The Meadow Event Park, and home to the State Fair of Virginia and other events. A portion has been preserved –The Meadow Historic District – which includes the foaling shed where Secretariat was born, and the yearling and training barns where he was stabled, as well as Meadow Stud's stallion barn. A small horse cemetery has markers that indicate the final resting places of Hall of Famers Hill Prince and Sun Beau, and one of the farm's greatest broodmares, Imperatrice.

■ The life of Bill Pape and Jonathan Sheppard's homebred 2013 Eclipse Award winner and multiple Pennsylvania-bred champion Divine Fortune was remembered after the 12-year-old chestnut gelding was euthanized due to injuries in a fall while battling for the lead at the last fence of the New York Turf Writers Cup-G1 at Saratoga. He rose to his feet and walked onto the ambulance, but was diagnosed with a broken shoulder. Joe Clancy wrote in his editorial that Divine Fortune "used a daring, front-running style. He jumped long and bold, with flair. . ." In his final race he "turned for home with energy, briefly kicked away for a few strides. The fence came up wrong in terms of a takeoff spot and he gave it a go. . ."

■ The first ever Maryland Pride Day at Laurel Park featured tight races, the most popular horse in the Mid-Atlantic returning to form and a legendary trainer being honored.

A ceremony in the winner's circle celebrated trainer King T. Leatherbury's induction into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. He then sent out 9-year-old homebred Ben's Cat to win the Mister Diz Stakes for the sixth time. Other highlights: Hillwood Stable's Phlash Phelps winning the Find; Dark Hollow Farm homebred mare Joy edging defending All Brandy winner Vielsalm by a head; and Chip Reed's Monster Sleeping breaking through for to win the Jameela in her third try.

25 years ago

■ Leading to the Breeders' Cup, Andy Plattner highlighted the 14 Mid-Atlantic-breds to run on the championship day more than once. Thomas Mellon Evans's Buckland Farm homebred Pleasant Tap held the record by starting in four of the eight Grade 1 events offered annually. He contested the 1989 Juvenile, 1990 Turf, 1991 Sprint and 1992 Classic. While he never won, he finished second in 1991 and 1992, and won an Eclipse Award as champion older horse of 1992.

■ Ben Perkins Jr. took his first training title when he won 29 races from 97 starts at Monmouth Park. Top runners included Raymond Dweck's graded stakes-winning 2-year-old filly Stormy Pick and stakes winner Max's Pal.

■ Travis Dunkelberger rode seven winners on Timonium's 10-race card Aug. 30. The 23-year-old had done the same at Charles Town in March. He led the 2000 Timonium standings, with 26 wins from 54 mounts.

■ Of the 27 Mid-Atlantic-breds who won stakes from mid-August through early September, 17 were first-time stakes winners. Among them was Robert Meyerhoff's homebred Include, a son of Broad Brush who captured Delaware Park's Vincent Moscarelli Memorial for 3-year-olds. Trained by Buddy Delp, he had four wins in seven starts. The oldest, 8-year-old Band Performance, broke through in Colonial Downs' Punch Line Stakes for Virginia-breds in his 74th start.

Include became a Grade 1-winning millionaire, won half his 20 starts, seven stakes, and had a solid stud career. Band Performance raced 130 times, winning 28, with the Punch Line his only stakes score.

50 years ago

■ A new format was instituted for the 15th annual Eastern Fall Sales at Timonium. For the first time horses sold on a Sunday, in two selected sessions. Also new was an "open" session held Monday. Sunday's average of $7,397 for 155 sold was the second highest on record and the gross of $1,146,600 ranked fourth all-time. The Monday session averaged $3,061 (79 sold).

Sellers were split on the new format, with two of the strongest critics Joe B. Hickey Jr. of Windfields Farm and Robert Leonard with Glade Valley Farm. Both felt the sale was badly damaged by the admission of lower quality "open" yearlings, with Leonard stating the sale was "designed as a select auction and should so

remain." Others took the opposite view that more breeders were helped. Editor Snowden Carter pondered: "Maybe both sides could be made happy by the creation of a separate catalogue for Monday night's horses. And the name of Monday night's sale could be changed, too."

E.P. Taylor's Windfields Farm led consignors for the fourth time in five years, selling 12 in the select portion for an average of $13,667. The top price for the farm, and the sale, was $40,500 for a Nearctic colt out of a *Forli half-sister to Hay Patcher.

■ Windfields Farm continued to grow, as Taylor purchased a 130-acre parcel (Deepwell Farm), to add to the 1,600 acres already in production. Eight stallions stood at Windfields, the most valuable Northern Dancer (America's leading sire in 1971), Tentam and Halo. But leading the Maryland sire ranks through the first 10 months of 1975 was "the least expensive" – Rambunctious. The 15-year-old stallion's offspring had earnings of approximately $600,000, with Ramhyde at $55,000 his biggest winner.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

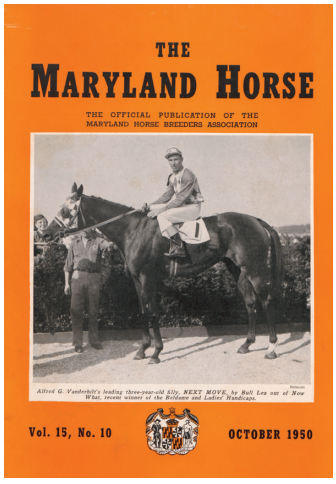
Watching one of his yearlings being sold at the Eastern Fall Sale, E.P. Taylor is flanked by Joe B. Hickey and Joe Thomas.

■ Top Maryland breeder/owner Milton Polinger was shifting the bulk of his racing stable back to Maryland. He had moved his runners to the coasts after becoming a member of the Maryland Racing Commission five years earlier to avoid the possibility of a conflict of interest.

Asked how he happened to change that view, Polinger said: "Well, no one else seemed to feel that way."

One horse no longer in his stable was stakes-winning 2-year-old Gentle King. The decision to sell was made to keep his stable in the black. Buddy Delp was chosen to train Polinger's 25-horse stable.

The next year Polinger homebred What a Summer was named Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly. Gentle King was champion older male in 1977, a year after Polinger's death.



75 years ago

■ Save Timonium Fair Committee chairman Bill Schluderberg sent out a postive progress report.

Widespread interest provided "definite assurance that the purchase of the Fair Grounds will be consummated." Schluderberg (the "Ess" in EssKay) was recently nominated chairman of the board of the new Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society. Directors with Thoroughbred connections included Matt Daiger, Humphrey Finney, John Heil, Larry MacPhail, Louis McLane Merryman and C.E. Tuttle.

Finney's Aug. 17 entry in The Editor's Saddle-Bag revealed a detail from one of the early Save Timonium meetings:

"It was a great shock to all of us connected with the Fair to learn that it was almost sold to Black and Decker before any of the argricultural interests of the state were aware that the property could be bought."

■ Updates from Don Reed on Pimlico's rebuilding progress noted that "Members of the building committee held numerous conferences; architects and engineers were consulted and sent on exploring tours to many of the nation's most modern race courses, and there was a steady hum of activity on the project." While no announcement of plans had yet been made, "Rumors have been flying thick and fast. . . Some bordered on the ridiculous, with suggestions that Pimlico use its infield for the Baltimore Colts football team's home games, but at least the Pimlico rebuilding was getting attention and the public was chiming in here and there with its ideas.

"Being restricted in area, because of its 'in-the-city' location, Pimlico cannot. . . 'just grow' as the occasion demands. Whatever is done is going to be pretty final. . ."

■ William Brann's Glade Valley Farm was offering three young *Challenger II broodmares for sale as well as one yearling filly of a buyer's choosing. "This offering is made to reduce our surplus of *Challenger II mares. Prices are low to accord with the present market conditions. This is an exceptional opportunity to acquire the kind of young mares that are rarely offered for sale, mares of best producing families."

■ Alfred Vanderbilt had two of the nation's top 3-year-old fillies, with Next Move ranking first after recent wins in the Beldame and Ladies Handicaps. Juvenile champion Bed o' Roses got a break in the weights when taking on males in the Lawrence Realization and won easily.

Both were foaled in California when their dams were bred to stallions owned by Louis B. Mayer.

■ Mr. and Mrs. G. Ray Bryson received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Maryland a certificate awarded in recognition of winning first prize in their community in the 1950 Maryland Greener Pastures Contest. "The Elray Farm at Kingsville, where the Bryson Thoroughbred breeding operations are carried on under Charlie Timanus' management, has had great attention paid to this phase of its operations. The results of liberal applications of manure, lime and fertilizer are now becoming apparent."

'And Still Somehow . . .'

Fifty years ago, Maryland-bred Life's Illusion won the New York Turf Writers Cup at Saratoga on her way to an Eclipse Award as champion steeplechaser. Trained by Paul Fout for owner/breeder Virginia Guest, the 4-year-old *Mystic II filly and jockey Al Quanbeck ousted champion Soothsayer by a neck in the win, one of her five on the year. In September Colonial Downs carded the Life's Illusion Stakes, won by Timetoshine (Fr) for Runnymoore Racing and trainer Mark Beecher.

From the Maryland Horse Library archives. Photo by Bob Coglianese.

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